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LD3008122088 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Negotiations

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz told journalists "exactly what has happened and is happening" during a Geneva press conference reported by INA, claiming Iran has displayed no good intentions during the negotiations but has issued frequent statements which convey a "mistaken and distorted" view of the situation.

Focusing on the issues of navigation in the Gulf and the clearing of the Shatt al-'Arab, 'Aziz disclosed that Iraq views Iran's commitment to free navigation in the Gulf as "not enough" and too "vague" and stressed Iran must pledge to refrain from intercepting and inspecting Iraqi ships or other ships going to and from Iraqi ports. Iraq views Iran's "maneuvering" on this issue as "unacceptable," he said.

As for the Shatt al-'Arab, 'Aziz confirmed Iraq wants the United Nations to assume responsibility for clearing the waterway immediately. Iran has already benefited from the cease-fire by using its ports and coast, he said, and it is therefore "natural, logical, and legitimate" that Iraq should likewise be able to use the Shatt al-'Arab, its only outlet to the sea. Iraq's "complete sovereignty" over this waterway does not mean Iran will not be able to use it, he added.

For Iran's part, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stated in an interview with IRNA that Iran is not "in principle" opposed to dredging the Shatt al-'Arab, but it believes that dredging can take place at "the appropriate time and on the basis of the existing regulations."

As the waterway is "a common river between Iran and Iraq," each side can dredge its own side, he suggested. Velayati contended the Iraqis do not really accept UN Resolution 598, asserting that Iraqi forces have still not begun to retreat, despite the resolution's stipulation that forces whould be withdrawn immediately after the cease-fire.

A KUNA report cited unconfirmed rumors Velayati is considering leaving Geneva unless the negotiations make progress. Meanwhile, the UN secretary general's official spokesman announced the postponement of a scheduled meeting between Velayati and 'Aziz, INA noted.

In Tehran, IRNA accused Iraq of violating the cease-fire by conducting military movements across the cease-fire lines in the Mehran area of western Iran. INA carried another report alleging Iranian violations of the cease-fire.

Regarding the effect of Iraqi action against Kurds in northern Iraq, an Iraqi Kurdish spokesman cited by IRNA claimed that some 3,500 Kurds have been killed or injured by Iraqi forces this month and accused the Iraqi Government of planning the "total extermination" of Kurds in Iraq. He also claimed that Turkey has prevented the entry of Kurdish refugees.

A Turkish spokesman denied his country has closed its borders to refugees, though he said it is natural for Turkey to take measures "necessary for its security," ANATOLIA noted. The agency also cited the Turkish defense minister's statement it is "out of the question" for Iraqi troops to enter Turkish soil in hot pursuit of separatists.

Iranian Oil Policy

On the occasion of the OPEC secretary general's visit to Iran, a Tehran radio commentary emphasized Iran's opposition to any attempt to allocate equal output quotas to Iran and Iraq. Iraq could never obtain a quota equal to that of Iran under normal OPEC criteria, the radio said, and any attempt to allocate an equal quota is "entirely unprincipled."

A KUNA report on the secretary general's visit indicated he would urge Iran to accept the same quota as Iraq.

As for Iran's oil output, IRNA cited an announcement by Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh that installations at the Salman rig and various other wells that were damaged by the U.S. Navy have now been repaired and are now on stream, albeit not at total capacity.

Kuwait-USSR

A high-ranking military delegation arrived in Moscow on a 6-day visit during which it will discuss "enhancing bilateral cooperation" with the chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and inspect "various Soviet advanced weapons," KUNA disclosed. The visit "falls in line" with Kuwait's policy of "diversifying weapons sources" and maintaining "balanced" relations with the superpowers, KUNA maintained.

Saudi Arabia

King Husayn Visit—King Fahd received Jordan's King Husayn in Jeddah during a 2-day "working visit" to discuss issues in the "Arab arena," the "most outstanding" issue being the Iran-Iraq war, Amman radio reported. King Fahd called "continuous full support and backing" for the Palestinians in the occupied territories the "primary issue" of the talks and expressed his "complete understanding and willingness" to help King Husayn "continue his efforts" in that area, SPA stated.

Capital Punishment Edict—The Council of Senior Ulema issued an edict calling for capital punishment of criminals found guilty of "sabotage" or any "misdeed which undermines security," SPA announced. The edict condemns to death anyone "legally found guilty" of "aggression" against life, public or private property, or of "blowing up or hijacking airplanes," SPA added.

Israel

Security—Despite all the media coverage of the issue of the territories, the greatest threat to Israel's security comes from the Arab states with which it has not signed a peace agreement, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Syria are now capable of launching missiles at Israel without relying on airpower, he noted.

On the situation in the territories, Rabin disclosed that 5,600 local inhabitants are currently under detention, 2,600 of them held under administrative detention orders.

In further disturbances in the West Bank, an Arab youth was wounded by IDF gunfire in Nabulus, and an Israeli settler was injured by a stone in Hebron, according to Jerusalem television and radio reports.

Relations With USSR—Nimrod Novik, political advisor to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, held talks with Soviet Foreign Ministry official Vladimir Tarasov in Paris 28 August, HADASHOT disclosed. The two men made preparations for the upcoming meeting between Peres and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at the UN General Assembly.

PLO Affairs

The PLO welcomed the U.S. Government's decision not to appeal against the New York Federal Court's decision to maintain the PLO's UN office, Radio Monte Carlo reported, citing a PLO official's view that this is a "great victory" for international law, the United Nations, the PLO, and the Palestinian people.

In Damascus, the pro-Syrian Fatah "Provisional Command" issued a statement to AFP castigating PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat for his policy of "capitulation" and announcing its intention of holding a conference to elect an alternative "national leadership for the Palestinian revolution."

The Provisional Command spokesman also stressed that attempts to arrange talks between his group and mainstream Fatah leaders in Libya will be in vain as long as 'Arafat persists in his policy of "appeasement." Both 'Arafat and Provisional Command leader Abu Musa are currently in Libya to attend Libyan revolution anniversary celebrations, according to JANA.

Sudan

An SPLM-SPLA spokesman denied a statement by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi that he wil meet Colonel John Garang "in a few days," according to the clandestine SPLA Radio. The spokesman said the claim was a "clumsy attempt" by Al-Mahdi to "play down" the "peace dialogue" between the SPLA and the Democratic Unionist Party.

Two thousand armed Chadian rebels in northern Darfur have surrendered their weapons to the Army, Libreville radio reported. The head of the Army Chief of Staff said the Chadians are being treated as refugees and "mediation" is undergoing with Chad for their return, the radio added.

The Iraqi ambassador returned to Khartoum to resume work after a recall for "consultation" when an Iraqi Embassy official was accused of having "a hand in" the murder of an Iraqi opposition leader in Sudan, SUNA indicated.

Pakistan

Former Prime Minister Muhammad Khan Junejo was reelected leader of his "faction" of the Muslim League, BBC World Service reported. The group joined in the opposition call to dismiss the federal and provincial governments and establish a "neutral caretaker" administration to "oversee the elections," BBC added.

Junejo and the leader of another "leading" Muslim League faction have "pledged to respect to the letter" the terms of the Geneva Accords if the League comes to power in the November election, AFP disclosed.

Afghanistan

The mujahidin will not observe a cease-fire declared by President Najibullah during the Soviet-Afghan space flight, according to rebel sources cited by AFP. In an address carried by Kabul radio, Najibullah said the Armed Forces would carry out only defensive "reciprocal measures" during the flight and urged the "extremists" to cease fighting.

Ahmad Shah, head of the Pakistan-based provisional rebel government, called the space flight "insignificant to the Afghan nation," AFP added. He said rebel fighters "fully control" Bamian and dismissed Najibullah's "neutral-zone scheme" as an attempt to "camouflage mujahidin successes and deceive the world."

A U.S. State Department report citing Afghanistan as the "main terrorist" in the region has "set another record for hypocrisy," TASS commented. The report was designed for the "gullible man in the street" and adds a "new stream" to the "flow of slander" the West is bringing to bear on Afghanistan, TASS contended.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt Rejects Tehran's Bid for POW Talks

PM2608124188 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24-30 Aug 8 pp 8,9

[Unattributed report: "Iranian-Egyptian Relations and the POW Problem"]

[Text] Iran has expressed its desire to release the Egyptian POW's it is detaining in return for talks on the resumption of relations between the two sides. Iran informed the Omani foreign minister of its desire during his visit to Tehran a few days ago and he in turn conveyed that to [Egyptian Foreign Minister] 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid during the latter's visit to Muscat last week.

Iran requested that talks between Cairo and Tehran, at any place Cairo chooses, coincide with direct negotiations between Iran and Iraq in order to discuss the question of restoring relations and releasing the POW's unconditionally.

And in Cairo, AL-MAJALLAH has learned that the Egyptian Government decided during a meeting between 'Abd al-Majid and President Husni Mubarak to reject the Iranian request and informed Tehran, via Oman, that the POW's must be released first—a procedural matter that will in any case be dealt with during negotiations with Iraq under Security Council Resolution 598. After that the question of establishing diplomatic relations between Iran and the Arab parties that severed relations with it, with Iraq and Egypt in the forefront, would be discussed.

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Decision Not To Appeal Court Ruling Welcomed

JN3008071488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] The PLO has welcomed the U.S. Government's decision yesterday to not appeal against the New York federal court ruling to maintain the PLO's UN office. Riyad Mansur, deputy chairman of the Palestinian mission in New York, termed the U.S. step as a great victory for international law, the United Nations, the PLO, and the Palestinian people.

Hasan 'Abd al-Rahman, director of the Palestinian Affairs Center at the Arab League offices in Washington, hoped that Congress and the U.S. Government will consecrate their efforts to establish a Middle East peace that guarantees the rights of all concerned.

What is important in the U.S. Justice Department's decision is that it is based on a conviction that keeping the PLO's office better serves the U.S. interests. It also comes in the light of external political considerations, which includes the fact that the United States hosts the United Nations. It is noteworthy that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will later leave for New York to deliver a speech at the UN General Assembly.

In the meantime, signs of new tension began to emerge between 'Arafat and the pro-Syrian Fatah Provisional Command. A spokesman for Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] has stated that his movement is preparing for a popular Palestinian conference to elect a national leadership for the Palestinian revolution.

The spokesman added that the movement's delegation, currently in Libya, will not meet the 'Arafatists, thus denying what Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] said in Tunis on Saturday that meetings will be held between the PLO leaders and the leaders of the pro-Syrian organizations.

Regarding the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, Khalid al-Hasan, one of Yasir 'Arafat's advisers, said the PLO is thinking of opening a direct dialogue with Israel when the latter talks about a mutual recognition with the PLO. Khalid al-Hasan was replying to statements by two young Labor Party officials who said it would be possible to open dialogue between Israel and the PLO once the Labor Party wins the next parliamentary elections and the PLO recognizes the State of Israel.

'Arafat Criticized for 'Policy of Capitulation'

NC3008074988 Paris AFP in English 0719 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Damascus, Aug 29 (AFP)—The pro-Syrian Fatah Provisional Command, led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah], has lashed out at Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat for his "policy of capitulation".

In a statement to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here late Monday, spokesman, 'Abd al-Hadi Nashash said any effort to arrange meetings between rival Palestinian factions would be in vain as long as Mr. 'Arafat persisted in his policy of appeasement, which he said was undermining the PLO.

Mr. Nashash said the Fatah Provisional Command delegation currently visiting Libya for celebrations to mark the 19th anniversary of the Libyan revolution on September 1 would not meet members of Mr. 'Arafat's mainstream Fatah group also attending the festivities.

He said the Fatah Provisional Command was preparing to hold a conference to elect "a national leadership for the Palestinian revolution."

In July pro-'Arafat Fatah guerillas were forced out of the Burj al-Barajinah refugee camp in Beirut after abandoning the Shatila camp under the guns of the Fatah Provisional Command.

PLO's Al-Hasan Cited on Independence Declaration

LD2808092088 Kuwait KUNA in English 0811 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 28 (KUNA)—The political advisor to the PLO Chairman Hani al-Hasan Sunday described the recent disengagement decision by King Husayn of Jordan as "a step in the right direction" toward an Arab and international recognition of the organisation, which ended any confusion regarding the Palestinian representation.

Al-Hasan, in an interview with daily AL-ANBA', affirmed that an Arab recognition of the PLO, will definitely set the stage for a similar step internationally.

As for the declaration of the Palestinian national independence, he stressed that such a measure is no longer difficult, saying however that the formation of a government to be recognised by the world community is the bigger obstacle in the way of a sovereign Palestinian state.

To realise both goals, he noted, "The PLO has to take the initiative in two directions, namely enabling the people to obtain real control over their affairs through the uprising and then moving forward in way which makes us capable of pushing the international community toward the convocation of an international peace conference."

Regarding Palestinian statements on acquiring international legitimacy as grounds for an independent state, Al-Hasan said that U.N. Resolution 181, on the partitioning of Palestine, is the base on which Palestinians base their claim for a state of their own.

Commenting on the recent developments in the Arabian Gulf region, in light of the near end to the Iraq-Iran war, the Fatah Central Committee member has brought a great deal of good to the area, indicating that Iraq is now ready to play a big role, both on the Arab and international fronts.

Speaking of Arab support to the Palestinian people, the ranking PLO official said that the organisation deeply believes in Arab solidarity, noting that Iraq, Syria and Jordan are key parts of the Middle East dilemma.

On his recent meeting with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in Cairo, Al-Hasan said that what has taken place during the meeting is not important, unless Democrats reach the White House and then and only then, Carter, who believes in a national home for Palestinians, can play a positive role in outlining the party's Mideast policy.

PLO's 'Abbas Cited on Government-in-Exile

JN2808093188 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 26 Aug 88 pp 20-22, 55

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas by Sana' al-Sa'id—date, place not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] There are some Israeli officials, such as Shim'on Peres, who have rejected the current Palestinian dialogue on forming a government-in-exile, saying it avoids making a decisive decision.

I wonder, have you actually agreed on how you are going to bring about this government and decided on its structure, while taking into consideration the many dangers it encompasses, including its rejection by some Palestinian factions?

Mahmud 'Abbas: The Palestinian resistance factions which are part of the PLO do not object to the government-in-exile. Thus, from the principal point of view, there is a guaranteed agreement within the PLO to the idea of a government-in-exile.

Until now, however, we have not agreed on the way we are going to bring this government into existance or on the statement or political program which the PLO ought to follow and which will be its guide in the coming stage. As for what Peres said—that it is an escape from taking the step toward a decisive decision—I say the contrary.

Resorting to a government-in-exile is merely dotting the i's and crossing the t's and bringing the peace process nearer because, if negotiations on the international conference do take place, they will be between governments. It is about time the Palestinians formed their own government.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean that this step will now be taken seriously, after the PNC emergency session is held next month?

Mahmud 'Abbas: It will definitely be discussed during the PNC meeting and will be declared sometime between now and the PNC session, which perhaps will take place in a month's time.

It is imperative that we study carefully and deeply all the dimensions of this government, its impact, results, form, connections, ties, of whom it will consist, and its relationship to the PLO and PNC. All these issues have to be defined before the PNC session convenes. If the PNC convenes, it will be to approve this step.

[Al-Sa'id] But King Husayn's latest measure of disengaging legal and administrative ties with the West Bank is what pushed you toward taking this step. In other words, had it not been for the King's measures, you would not have thought of it?

Mahmud 'Abbas: I do not deny that King Husayn's decisions activated talk about the government-in-exile. But there are other factors which brought this idea to the forefront of our interest and thinking, the most important of which are the Palestinian uprising, international detente, and contacts which are taking place now between the two superpowers to solve the problematic hotbeds of dispute in the world.

We notice that most of these hotbeds of conflict are on the way to a solution. Therefore, the turn will come for the Palestine question. There are, as we have been informed by our Soviet friends, some fairly good steps dealing with agreement on the international conference.

Therefore, it is not only King Husayn's step, but also all these factors combined, which have urged us to think of a government-in-exile.

[Al-Sa'id] This means that the Palestinian statements issued recently do enjoy credibility and are not merely verbal maneuvers. Here, I mention specifically some statements made which seemed to indicate the possibility of changing the PLO Charter. I wonder, is this really possible? Can you actually take such a bold step?

Mahmud 'Abbas: I cannot jump ahead of time and events, but we stress that there must be a realistic political program for the provisional government. As to how it will be, what its limits are, and to what extent changes will take place in the Palestinian policy, is left up to the Palestinian leadership to decide.

What is demanded of us all is to present a political program which would prevent the world, especially that part of it which rejects us, from ignoring us.

[Al-Sa'id] But the statements in general have not conformed to the PLO's ideological charter, which calls for a secular state. Have you abandoned the ideology of the secular state of your dreams, given your statements which indicate that you are satisfied with a Palestinian state to coexist side by side with an Israeli state?

Mahmud 'Abbas: We have not abandoned the idea of coexisting within a democratic secular state. We continue to adhere to it and will not abandon it even after we have established our state. But, we will wage a peaceful struggle to realize it with all our humanitarian means because we believe it will be the ideal and final solution for Arabs and Jews to live side by side in a unified state, as they lived in the past in various Arab states and as they could live in the future.

[Al-Sa'id] Israel clearly says that if the Palestinians really want peace let them say so without any riddles, charades, ambiguity, semantics, or verbal maneuvers. Let them say: We want peace. We recognize Israel, accept Resolutions 242 and 338, and reject violence.

Mahmud 'Abbas: It is regrettable that over the past 40 years Israel has been accusing the Arabs of being against peace. It is also regrettable that the Arabs have not been able to respond to this claim despite their genuine desire to realize peace.

When the Arabs and the Palestinians began to talk about peace, Israel began to evade the issue. So far Israel refuses to recognize Resolution No 242. It has its own interpretation of this resolution. When Israel talks of peace it does not talk about withdrawing from all of the occupied territories or the Palestinian people's rights.

If Israel wants peace, it should talk about the Palestinian people. Israel is well aware that the basic problem in the Middle East is the problem of the Palestinian people whom it ignores. It is Israel and not us who is evading peace.

[Al-Sa'id] Is it true that Yasir 'Arafat will announce the birth of the independent Palestinian state at the European Parliament in mid-September based on the international legitimacy and UN resolutions, particularly Resolution No 181 of 1947, and that this announcement will precede the PNC session?

Mahmud 'Abbas: I believe the political Palestinian steps we are discussing now, such as the provisional government and the birth of the Palestinian state, will be taken if they are approved during the the PNC session. I do not believe that these steps will be taken before that unless the Palestinian leadership agrees on them.

This leadership is now holding intensive discussions on them. There are many legal and political committees working in this direction. If the leadership and the committees end their discussions and reach a conclusive agreement, these steps will be announced at any time and not necessarily at the PNC session.

[Al-Sa'id] Egypt always asks you to coordinate with Jordan under all cirumstances. What is the practical formula through which you can deal with Jordan, given that U.S. officials are currently of the view that King Husayn's recent moves have slightly alienated Jordan from the peace process?

Mahmud 'Abbas: The current phase is characterized by the fact that Jordan is no longer seeking to represent the Palestinians or to participate in representing them. In other words, Jordan cleared the arena in favor of the PLO and, according to Jordanian officials, no longer has a role to play in this regard.

However, this does not mean that it will not participate in the international conference. Jordan is a confrontation state, a state which has borders with Israel, like Lebanon and Syria. The Palestinian borders notwithstanding, Jordan has borders with Israel and, therefore, has to be an active participant in the international conference.

And because it is going to be a participant, it is necessary to coordinate with it as with Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon. Our declared, firm position is that we will go to the international conference as an independent delegation or within a joint Arab delegation.

[Al-Sa'id] But actual political coordination with Jordan might reflect the need to form a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to emerge from the dilemma of rejection by the United States and Israel to hold dialogue with the PLO?

Mahmud 'Abbas: This is absolutely out of the question.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the possibility of forming a Palestinian-Egyptian, or a Palestinian-Syrian delegation?

Mahmud 'Abbas: We do not want a Palestinian-Egyptian delegation, a Palestinian-Syrian delegation, or a Palestinian-Lebanese delegation. We want an independent delegation or a unified Arab delegation. However, I would like to reaffirm that this absolutely does not stand in the way of coordination.

Therefore, when you tell me that Egypt asks us for coordination, I say that we are extremely eager to cordinate with Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and with all the parties concerned. Coordination must take place now before the international conference.

[Al-Sa'id] What about coordination with Syria, particularly now that King Husayn's measures have placed Syria in a critical situation because the Palestinian card has been removed from its hand? This means that it can no longer claim that it is postponing regaining the Golan Heights until the Palestinian cause is settled?

Mahmud 'Abbas: We are in control of the Palestinian cause now. Syria has been trying and continues to try to cancel the Palestinian card, whether by controlling our affairs in Lebanon, controlling the PLO, or by highlighting the differences that have surfaced in the Palestinian arena.

But all the Syrian attempts have confirmed to them that they will never succeed in canceling the Palestinian card, and that this card can never be in their hands or in those of any other country. The Palestinian card will only remain in the hands of the Palestinian people who alone can freely and clearly express their hopes, aspirations, and rights.

[Al-Sa'id] Does the proclamation of a government-in-exile not require some sort of ratification and agreement on the idea between the two superpowers?

Mahmud 'Abbas: I do not believe that detente is neeeded for the proclamation of a government-in-exile. Detente might contribute to efforts by the two superpowers to fulfill what they aspire to achieve.

[Al-Sa'id] I meant agreement and not detente, an agreement between the two superpowers to give their blessing to the formation of a government-in-exile?

Mahmud 'Abbas: I do not believe there is any need for such an agreement. We will refer the question of a government-in-exile to the United Nations. Before this step, we will submit it to all our friends and brothers.

Chief among those friends is the Soviet Union with whom we must consult because they speak on our behalf in their talks with the United States on the international conference. It is in our interest and it is our duty to consult with them on this issue. We are actually holding such consultations with them.

[Al-Sa'id] But the United States rejects a Palestinian government-in-exile. This was stated by many U.S. officials. The most recent rejection was made by Murphy during his recent tour of the Middle East.

Mahmud 'Abbas: The U.S. Administration, so far, refuses to recognize the existence of the Palestinian people. We listen to the expressions George Shultz and Murphy use when they speak about the Palestinian people. They do not refer to us as the Palestinian people but as the Palestinians.

I believe the time will come when they will be forced to speak about the Palestinian people and to admit that these people have representatives, and that these representatives are either the PLO, the provisional government, the government-in-exile, or any other formula that the Palestinian people choose, and that they will have to accept it.

But up until now, the Americans have not yet reached the stage of full recognition of the Palestinian people. We do not deny that there is a development in the American position with regards to Palestinian rights, for instance when they talk about legitimate legal rights for the Palestinians.

This is something that was not mentioned by them in the past. There is even more progressive talk than this, but they have not yet reached the stage of total recognition of the Palestinian people. If they recognize the Palestinian people, talk about recognizing a provisional government or a government-in-exile will not be difficult.

[Al-Sa'id] Where will be the seat of the government-in-exile that the PLO will declare, especially if you are prevented from reaching Jerusalem? Will it be in Tunisia, Algeria, or Iraq?

Mahmud 'Abbas: Its official seat is in Jerusalem. However, its temporary seat will be in any Arab country which offers to host it.

[Al-Sa'id] Have you had any offers yet?

Mahmud 'Abbas: We are now in Tunis. The political leadership is there and is enjoying total freedom in working, struggling, and practicing everything in Tunisia. This is a favor by the Tunisian people and government which the Palestinian people cannot deny.

So long as the PLO leadership is there, it is not farfetched that the provisional government will also be based there. In any case, we have not actually discussed this topic with any country. I do not think that the issue will be difficult or impossible for us to solve.

[Al-Sa'id] Israel will play its game of attempting to contain the PLO so that the latter will not fill the political vacuum which has been created through King Husayn's latest measures in the West Bank. It is true that the uprising has proven that the revival, power, and iron will of the Palestinian people is something to reckon with, but how can the uprising be exploited and translated into developed political activity through well-studied decisions?

Mahmud 'Abbas: Exploiting the uprising means reaching a political solution. The uprising is not an end in itself, but aims to reach a political solution. This is what we are seeking to achieve with honesty and hard work. This is why, at the beginning, I said that one of the most important reasons that urged us to discuss declaring a provisional government and a clear political program is the uprising.

Therefore, it is clear that the results of the uprising should be exploited politically for the benefit of the Palestinian people. It is true that Israel will try to contain us; nay, it is seeking and exerting all its efforts to contain the Palestinian people.

However, it has been proven now through the struggle of the Palestinian people and the uprising that Israel is the one which is contained, surrounded, and isolated; isolated internally inside the framework of its society and isolated internationally in Europe. Nay, it is condemned now even by the Jewish American community.

[Al-Sa'id] When President Husni Mubarak was asked his opinion on the government-in-exile, he said it was an idea which had been proposed in the past and the Palestinians had rejected it. Today, we need a comprehensive evaluation of the Palestinian points of view, first and foremost, toward this idea.

I wonder what it is you sensed during your meeting with President Mubarak? Was it caution or welcome?

Mahmud 'Abbas: President Husni Mubarak fully welcomed the idea of the provisional government and encouraged us. He expressed Egypt's readiness to help implement this idea by placing its energies, capacities, cadres, and information at the disposal of the PLO. We actually started, while in Cairo, to carry out practical discussions with the Egyptian political and diplomatic cadres to make the implementation of this idea possible.

[Al-Sa'id] Is there any response from other Arab countries?

Mahmud 'Abbas: There is response from Jordan. Jordan has affirmed to us with all honesty and clarity that when the state or government is declared, it will be the first to recognize it and will not delay a minute in doing so. We are now holding discussions with all the Arab countries. I imagine that the other Arab countries, which are being visited by my brothers who are holding discussions with the officials there, will say the same thing and will respond positively to this idea.

There will not be any problems. But, naturally, Syria, on every possible occasion, declares that it is opposed to the government-in-exile. We do not pay much attention to the Syrian opinion anyway.

[Al-Sa'id] At a time when Israel insists that it will not deal with the PLO, it continues to call on King Husayn to hold negotiations with it to achieve peace. This means that Israel wants to remove what is termed the Palestinian option, after King Husayn handed the cards to you and took an extremely helpful step in your favor so that you can take control of things.

Mahmud 'Abbas: I believe that King Husayn will not respond to Israel's request if the latter asks him to negotiate instead of the Palestinians or on their behalf. It is important to notice though that Peres has started talking about negotiating with the Palestinians, or with Palestinians who recognize this, that, or the other.

The Labor Party, the one which was wagering on talks with Jordan, has started to change its tone and program and talk about discussions. It is true it has not approached the PLO directly, but it has started talking about some form of discussions with the Palestinians.

[Al-Sa'id] Is this a true indicator of progress or is it merely a maneuver?

Mahmud 'Abbas: Israel must understand that peace has to take place with the Palestinian people and not with any other side. They have ignored us scores of years and that is enough.

[Al-Sa'id] The U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner recently told me: The Americans refused to negotiate with the Palestinians because some personalities from the PLO were imposed on them who contradict the American law which prohibits dealings with the PLO. I say: To show some flexibility and cut channels to reach the desired aim—establishing the Palestinian state—is it not possible to take a risk, recognize Resolution 242, and declare that you discard terrorism?

Mahmud 'Abbas: We clearly and frankly announced in Cairo that we oppose any acts of violence outside the occupied territories. But our right to struggle in our own land is a legitimate right included in United Nations charters and all international legislation. This is an indisputable and irrefutable fact.

As for the issue of 242 and 338, it is not possible to discuss them now. The United States refused to meet with our brothers inside and outside, although they all represent the PLO. We are aware of what we say and do. When we say that we want them to meet with the Palestinians or the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories, this is to affirm that the cause is not merely that of our people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but that it is the cause of all the Palestinian people.

They insist on meeting with people on the inside only, despite the fact that they know they are linked to the PLO. They do that to limit the cause to the people in the Gaza Strip or West Bank, although two-thirds of the Palestinian people are outside the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and have the right to return and to self-determination. Therefore, when we insist on their presence in this meeting, we are merely asserting that the Palestine question is an indivisible whole.

[Al-Sa'id] In spite of King Husayn's recent statements to calm down the situation betweeen Jordan and the PLO, observers note that tension still exists, particularly that the PLO is not qualified, at least at this stage, to shoulder the burdens that Jordan used to assume?

Mahmud 'Abbas: We did not notice any tension in Jordan's behavior. We also did not notice that its actions were motivated by anger. On the contrary, when we visited Jordan, King Husayn and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i informed us that Jordan, for many reasons, has given up its role willingly.

Our reply was that since Jordan has given up its role willingly, then we too will accept the role willingly. No one has taken any offense. I believe and I sensed during the recent 3-day visit to Jordan that our relations are excellent. We have laid down the bases for a new relationship for the future, God willing.

The relationship between the Palestinian and Jordanian people goes way back and dates some 40 years. It cannot be harmed by one decision or one stand. We will enhance this relationship after the establishment of our independent state through the establishment of a confederation between us and Jordan. This is because we cannot—it is impossible—separate the Palestinian people from the Jordanian people.

The Jordanians told us a good saying and we are careful to repeat it. They told us: We separated only to get closer. We reaffirm here that we will get closer and closer in the future. My reply to those who say that the PLO is not qualified to shoulder the tasks that Jordan used to assume is that we are capable of filling any vacuum. Perhaps King Husayn would not have taken his recent step had he not been so confident that we were capable and qualified to assume all the responsibilities of filling this vacuum.

[Al-Sa'id] Some observers have explained King Husayn's recent measures as being a reaction to the apprehension that the uprising may have repercussions and perils on the East Bank of Jordan, and that this has made King Husayn adopt these recent measures and seek peace away from the West Bank, preferring to leave responsibility for the West Bank to the PLO. What do you say to this, and is the uprising to be feared so much?

Mahmud 'Abbas: With respect to the part of your question on the repercussions the uprising may have on King Husayn, I say that such talk is inaccurate and that such ideas could not have come to King Husayn's mind. On the other hand, I would like to say that the uprising is strong and fierce against the enemy in the occupied territories, against the Israeli settlement schemes, and against the Israeli occupation.

However, it does not have a negative impact on those brothers who are its neighbors because we view the brothers around us in Egypt and Jordan, as well as the Syrian and Lebanese people, as the staunchest supporters of the Palestinian cause. These are the feelings of the sons of our people in the occupied territories.

[Al-Sa'id] Yasir 'Arafat is scheduled to visit Jordan for talks with King Husayn. Can this visit take place before the convocation of the extraordinary PNC session?

Mahmud 'Abbas: The invitation extended to Yasir 'Arafat to visit Jordan still stands. It will take place at the appropriate time and could take place before the extraordinary PNC session.

OPEC Affairs

Subroto Departs for Iran After Talks in Kuwait

LD2908112088 Kuwait KUNA in English 0906 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 29 (KUNA)—OPEC's Secretary General Dr Subroto left here Monday for Tehran, on a mission which will also take him to Baghdad, in an effort to resolve a number of the persistent problems which face the organisation, spearheaded by setting a clear definition for oil condenser products and settling the issue of the Iraqi and Iranian quotas.

Meanwhile, high-level Gulf oil sources disclosed to KUNA that Subroto will summon the 13 OPEC members for an emergency conference, in case he succeeded in convincing the two Gulf war foes to accept a "certain and equal" quota acceptable by both parties.

The OPEC secretary general, who arrived here last Friday, met with Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Athbi on ways to enable the organization [to] maintain the 18-dollar per barrel price, and Kuwait's request for giving a clear definition of condensate oils through determining its condensation point, so that any such product below this point can be calculated within the quotas of members.

Without such definition, some members were able to classify part of their oil products as condensate oil, so to exclude them from their quotas. Such a step enabled these countries to up their oil production of condensate oils to nearly 2 million b/d, not included within the organisation's production ceiling of 15.06 million b/d.

Regarding his proposed call for an extraordinary ministerial conference, Dr Subroto said that the majority of OPEC members will attend the meeting, in which Iraq will re-join the production quotas list set by OPEC, after it refused its 1986 quota of 1.4 million b/d. Iraq's war foe Iran was assigned a quota of 2.3 million b/d.

The sources affirmed that Subroto, who is also Indonesia's former energy minister, will urge Iran to accept the same quota as Iraq. If Iraq and Iran accept the same quota, the sources noted, the next step will be to ask both countries to determine the amount they agree on.

It affirmed that OPEC's secretary general will try to persuade both countries that the appropriate quota is 2.3 million b/d, namely the current amount produced by Iran.

The sources revealed that Subroto may suggest to Iran a 150,000 barrels increase on its current quota, so that both OPEC members produce nearly 2.5 million b/d. Iraq's current production was estimated at 2.7 million b/d.

In the OPEC Ministerial Council held in London in 1983, Iraq accepted a quota of 1.2 million barrels daily to help the organisation reduce its production ceiling and in turn prevent a drop in prices at the international market.

However, Iraq's actual production plunged to 1.1 million due the war and Syria's refusal to allow Iraqi oil to flow through its territories since 1982 and till now.

Since then until 1986, Iraq reluctantly stuck to its OPEC quota, when it asked the organisation to have the same quota as Iran. When the organisation failed to meet Iraq's request, Baghdad officials, topped by President Saddam Husayn, said that Iraq will produce a barrel for each Iranian barrel. In 1979, Iraq produced an average of 3.5 million b/d, while Iran produced 3.2 million for the same year.

Chad

Rebels in Sudan Reportedly Lay Down Arms

AB2908212088 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1830 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Followers of one of the opponents to the Ndjamena regime, Acheikh Ibn Oumar, who had taken refuge in Sudan since last month, yesterday completed handing in their arms to the Sudanese Army.

The Sudanese Army Chief of Staff General Mahdi Abu Nimr, who reported it, pointed out that the 2,000 strong group were currently in the Wadi Salih region in northern Darfur which borders Chad. The treatment they are currently receiving from the Sudanese authorities is obviously the same provided to all refugees. This has been so that a mediation, which has already been initiated with the Chadian Government and aimed at ensuring their return, yields results.

Gen Abu Nimr has also said that the pockets held by what he called the Chadian bandits in the Darfur, where they used to carry out sabotage and looting operations, were cleaned following a joint action of the Sudanese police and Army.

It must be recalled that on 4 August, Gen Fathi Ahmad, the commanding officer of Acheikh Ibn Oumar's troops, told the Sudanese authorities of his preparedness to hand in all arms and return to Chad with his men. He also announced on the same occasion the arrest of his chief, Acheikh Ibn Oumar, in Libya.

Togolese Foreign Minister Received by Habre

AB2908212488 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] President Hissein Habre this morning received the Togolese minister of foreign affairs at the Presidential Palace. This visit comes shortly after that of his country's interior minister.

Asked by the press about the successive visits to our country, the Togolese envoy said since Chad and Togo are friendly countries, and the two heads of state, Gnasingbe Eyadema and Hissein Habre are also friends and brothers, it is normal that regular consultations be held on problems of common interest.

As to whether Togo intends to act as mediator in the conflict between us and Libya, the Togolese envoy said his country has always stood for peaceful solutions, considering that peace is essential for the development of our region, and for the development of the whole of Africa. He emphasized that if an issue arises that leads to a conflict likely to disturb this development effort, Togo will be one of those that will participate in an effort to restore peace.

Egypt

Ghali Meets With Indonesian Foreign Minister

NC3008104688 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas. They exchanged views on the issues to be submitted to the nonaligned foreign ministers conference to begin in Cyprus on 7 September. They also discussed the coordination of bilateral stands during this conference. The two ministers reviewed bilateral relations and ways to bolster them in various spheres.

Departs 30 Aug

NC3008132688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas left Cairo this afternoon following a 3-day visit, during which he conveyed a written message to President Mubarak from Indonesian President Suharto. [passage omitted]

Talks Held With Jordan on Scientific Cooperation

NC2908131088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—An expanded round of talks between Egypt and Jordan was held at the Ministry of Scientific Research here today. Dr 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research, led Egypt's delegation to the talks, while the Jordanians were led by Energy Minister Hisham al-Khatib, currently visiting Egypt.

During the session, the two sides reviewed the study prepared by the Egyptian scientific research departments on the labor market in Egypt in a bid to strengthen Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation in the field of labor. Dr 'Izz stated that the talks also dealt with ways to promote scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the fields of new and renewable energy resources and the use of nonconventional building materials for the construction of new urban communities. He added that the two sides had followed up the implementation of the scientific cooperation protocol signed in 'Amman in January, which covers all fields of scientific cooperation. [passage omitted]

Senegalese Envoy Arrives in Cairo 29 Aug

NC2908203988 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] (Muhammad al-Ma'mun), special envoy of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, arrived in Cairo this evening for a 3-day visit. The Senegalese envoy said he will convey a message to President Husni Mubarak from

President Diouf. he added that he will hold talks with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, on current African issues and bilateral relations.

Premier Details Income From Citizens Abroad

PM2608113588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Aug 88 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Prime Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Remittance From Egyptians Abroad Totals 750 Million Pounds This Year"]

[Excerpts] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi emphasized that the Egyptian Government is taking care of its sons abroad and constantly following up the position of Egyptians working abroad. [passage omitted]

Sidqi added: The government encourages travel and does not prevent it, since travel is one of the citizens' rights under the Egyptian Constitution. But there is a system guaranteeing protection for young Egyptian men traveling to work abroad. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian prime minister pointed out that Egyptian Planning Ministry estimates indicate that remittances from Egyptians working abroad will total 710 million pounds in the current fiscal year 1988/89 in view of the implementation of the free exchange market system. [passage omitted]

Cairo To Start Banks in West Bank for Transfers

JN2708204688 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 26 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Cairo — AL-ITTIHAD has learned through responsible officials in the Egyptian Ministry of Economy that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will meet with the political leadership to discuss a request made by some personalities from the occupied Arab territories to open Egyptian banks through which one can transfer funds to the West Bank. These banks would replace the Jordanian banks after the disengagement of ties with the West Bank. The sources said officials in Egypt and economists are currently studying the possibility of fulfilling this demand before presenting it to the Egyptian president.

Firecrackers Blamed for Report of Bomb Attack

NC2908134188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—MENA has determined there is no truth to news agency reports of a bomb attack outside a church in Rawd al-Faraj yesterday. MENA has learned that in fact someone hurled a bag of firecrackers used by children at a wedding party held in the church, causing a loud bang.

Two guests were slightly injured when those in the church pushed their way out. The prosecutor has begun an investigation into the incident, listening to witnesses' testimony.

Commentary Urges Israeli-PLO Negotiations

NC2708140588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Israel Must Deal With the Palestinian Situation Reasonably and Realistically"]

[Text] Israel launched an unprovoked military action 2 days ago on the Palestinian camps near Sidon in southern Lebanon, targeting civilians, including women and children, in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah Wa Miyah camps. This was an attempt to flaunt its power and raise the low morale within its military ranks. Proof of this is that Israel usually launches such campaigns in direct retaliation for some fedayeen attacks on its northern settlements, but this time nothing had happened to drive it to use its aerial, naval, and land forces in such a show of force against the camps and villages of southern Lebanon.

Hence, we believe this Israeli military demonstration was designed to break the siege which the Palestinian uprising has imposed on it for almost 9 continuous months. Israeli Chief of Staff Dan Shomron has openly admitted his forces' inability to deal with the uprising, stating that Israel needs a miracle to stop it.

Some might say that with its latest military action Israel was trying to demonstrate its presence in Lebanon and influence the intricate presidential election process in its favor. There may be some truth to this, but Yitzhaq Rabin demonstrated a clearer truth when he announced that the aim of the Israeli military action in southern Lebanon was to show the Palestinian organizations that Israel can confront their activities, wherever they occur.

If we add to this Israel's persistent policy of deporting Palestinians and expelling them to southern Lebanon in an attempt to evict from the occupied territories their legitimate owners—a policy denounced by the whole world and condemned last night by the UN Security Council—and the daily repressive and brutal tactics of the Israeli forces for almost 9 months, including firing bullets and poison gases [as heard], imposing curfews, shutting down universities and schools, isolating the Gaza Strip from the outside world, using a starvation war, dissolving the popular committees, and dissolving the Palestinian Trade Union Federation, we can say that Israel is swimming against the tide and attempting to turn back the wheels of history.

This involves a direct threat to Israel's own security, a fact retired Israeli generals admitted when they recently declared that Israel's security can be salvaged only by relinquishing the West Bank.

We would have thought Israel would have benefited from past experience, particularly as it has accomplished nothing and never will by using force to impose its will on others or occupy their territory. Despite reasonable voices within Israel calling for giving up the West Bank and Gaza and negotiating with the PLO, the Israeli rulers do not want to deal with the facts with reason or to attempt to understand the implications of the Palestinian uprising, which erupted inside the occupied territories as a result of Israeli factors.

We also ask the Israeli leaders: What are you going to do in the wake of Jordan's decision to disengage from the West Bank and the PLO's assumption of the administration of the Palestinian people's affairs? Annexing the West Bank is impossible; putting down the uprising requires a miracle; the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state is imminent; attempts to drive a wedge within Palestinian ranks will not succeed; the Palestinian identity has become a fact; and the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Furthermore, the will of people cannot be bought and sold at an election auction. Hence, Israel can only accept the new reality, negotiate directly with the PLO, and exchange mutual recognition with the PLO. This is the only course which will guarantee Israeli security and bring security and stability to all the peoples of the region.

'Practical Measures' Urged Against Israel

NC2808140988 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Ibrahim Wahib commentary: "The Resolution We Expect From the Security Council"]

[Text] The Security Council may have issued a statement expressing extreme concern over the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. The Council's statement may have asked Israel to halt immediately deporting civilian Palestinians and called for the return of those already expelled, but such a statement by the Security Council will have no effect in Israel.

Israel is used to statements issued by this international body being confined to appeals and expressions of regret and concern, falling short of any practical measures. Israel is also accustomed to ignoring, disregarding, and shelving all Security Council resolutions and statements, from the partition resolutions of 1947 to Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Israel, in pursuit of its current measures to deal with the uprising, is paying no attention to international documents such as the Geneva Convention on human rights. This being the case, what will make Israel comply now with the UN request to end its repressive measures against the Palestinians in the occupied territories? It is certain that this Security Council demand will join the heap of previous resolutions which Israel has ignored. Such is the UN position toward Israel.

As for the United States' stand, the U.S. State Department has protested the Israeli authorities' practices against the Palestinian citizens. A senior Israeli official has described this U.S. protest as unprecedentedly strong. Some U.S. sources have reported that Washington is considering cancelling Israel's preferential tariff status in light of its violating international labor laws. However, until the U.S. protest is put into effect, Israel prefers total rejection, certain that no practical measures to implement these U.S. threats will be made.

It is enough here to refer to the reaction by Israel, which is supposed to be a UN member, to the Security Council and the U.S. State Department's statements. Israel responded by escalating its terrorist acts in an attempt to quell the Palestinian uprising, which the Americans and the Israelis themselves have admitted cannot be quelled. The U.S. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR has noted that Israel has failed to stem the Palestinian uprising, which has started to affect the positions of the Israelis themselves.

We have warned before that the uprising will evolve from a peaceful movement into an armed one and will acquire the necessary positive and effective international pressures. We do not need any new resolutions by the Security Council or statements of regret by the major powers with respect to Israel. What we need is a single resolution that will compel Israel to implement previous resolutions adopted by world countries.

AL-AKHBAR on U.S. Condemnation of Deportations

JN2908204588 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Aug 88 p 5

[Editorial: "Condemnations Alone Are Not Enough"]

[Text] The United States has condemned the successive deportations which Israel is carrying out on the residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. It warned the Tel Aviv government of the consequences of continuing with this illegitimate measure which goes against all international principles, charters, and laws which dictate an occupying nation's code of behavior in the regions it controls by force.

At the same time, official U.S. sources said Washington was studying the possibility of cancelling customs privileges which Israel enjoys because it is violating international labor laws and depriving Palestinian workers who work in its territories from forming special unions to protect their interests.

This is not the first time that the United States declares its condemnation of Israel's methods, which ignore all international charters and human and moral norms, in dealing with the Palestinian people residing in their occupied territory.

Most nations condemned these methods. We hope that things will not stop at this stage which is satisfied by remarks of condemnation and denial issued by Washington every once in a while to absorb the waves of Arab and international anger over the crimes which the Israeli authorities will not cease to commit against an isolated nation demanding its right to live. Then, the American silence reigns again. The U.S. officials shut their eyes to what the Tel Aviv authorities do and U.S. aid continues to flow to support Israeli oppression operations.

We have become used to this style followed by the U.S., until the latter has lost all credibility, not only among the Arabs, but also in various international arenas. For Washington to retrieve its credibility in this regard, we hope that just this once and in a serious way, it would execute what it threatens Israel with in the form of measures, to prove that it is truly angry at the successive violations which the Tel Aviv leaders insist on committing. It should make it clear that any disregard for international laws and human rights will be met by a decisive response, not by mere statements of condemnation which are no longer worth the ink with which they are written.

Briefs

African Loan

The African Development Bank has agreed to grant Egypt a $270-million loan to finance the expansion project of the western Cairo power station. The project will increase the station's power capacity by 700 megawatts, approximately half the power generated by the High Dam. This was stated by Dr 'Irfan al-Shafi'i, first undersecretary of the Ministry of International Cooperation, following his return from Abidjan yesterday. He added: The loan will be paid over a 20-year period with a 5-year grace period at an annual interest rate of 7.7 percent. He added that this is the biggest loan ever granted by the bank to a country since its establishment. [Text] [*JN2608104188 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 24 Aug 88 p 5*]

Aid To Fight Locusts

Cairo, Aug 26 (MENA)—Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy premier and minister of agriculture, has decided to form qualified working groups to head to Sudan if the Sudanese Government asks for help in combatting swarms of locusts that have begun to invade the northern parts of the Sudan, Agriculture Undersecretary for Combattings of Pests Dr Yasin 'Usamah has said. He added that adequate measures were taken in the south of Egypt to face any possible invasion by the locusts to Egypt. He added that in appreciation of Egypt's role in the combatting of locusts, the Jeddah-based Islamic Bank for Development has earmarked the sum of 750,000 dollars to help Egypt in its war against the locust peril. [Text] [*NC2608111688 Cairo MENA English 1105 GMT 26 Aug 88*]

Friendship Agreement with USSR

Volgograd, Aug 26 (MENA)—An agreement of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet city of Volgograd and the Egyptian city of Port Said was signed here today. The agreement underlines the necessity to promote cooperation between the two cities in the economic, tourist, cultural and trade domains. The governor of Port Said Sami Khidr, who arrived here on Wednesday, and the mayor of Volgograd signed the agreement. [Text] [*NC2608112588 Cairo MENA in English 1111 GMT 26 Aug 88*]

Trade Agreement

Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Egypt and the DPRK today signed an agreement for commodity exchange for the year 1988. 'Adil al-Jarhi, Economy Ministry undersecretary, signed the protocol for Egypt, while Yi Song-nok, vice minister of foreign trade, signed it for the DPRK. The protocol, which expires in March 1989 and amounts to 44 million accounting sterlings split between the two, allows Egypt to import reinforced iron, zinc, lead, veneer, and frozen fish from DPRK. In return, the DPRK will import aluminum products, steel sheets and pipes, medicine, phosphate, and cotton products from Egypt. [Excerpt] [*NC2908141188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 29 Aug 88*]

Libya

Palestinian Leaders Arrive for Festivities

LD2808230488 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Ahmad Jibril, Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah], 'Arabi 'Awwad, Tal'at Ya'qub, and Abu Mahir al-Yamani arrived in Tripoli last evening to take part in celebrations of the Arab Libyan people marking the 19th anniversary of the Great September Revolution. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Statement

LD3008084988 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0717 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Aug (JANA)—Brother Yasir 'Arafat; Brother George Habash, general secretary of the PFLP; Brother Nayif Hawatimah, general secretary of the DFLP; Brother Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee; Brother Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], member of the Fatah Central Committee;

Brother Abu Nizar Sakhr, secretary of the Fatah Revolutionary Council; and Brother Sulayman al-Najjab, secretary of the Palestinian Communist Party arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat made a statement to JANA in which he expressed his happiness at being in the Great Jamahiriyah and his participation in the Arab Libyan people's celebration of the 19th anniversary of the great 1 September revolution, and the 10th anniversary of the producers-partners revolution.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat said that the visit will contribute to the realization of Palestinian national unity on firm bases and to the escalation of the popular revolution which is being led by the generation of anger in occupied Palestine through their people's committees. He also praised the material, moral, and political support being offered by the great 1 September revolution.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat strongly denounced the oppressive practices by which the Zionist enemy is trying to abort the popular revolution, saying that these new and bestial practices have produced more martyrs and more demolishing of houses, the expulsion and burning alive of a large number of workers, and causing abortions among pregnant women, and the intensive use of internationally banned poisonous gases.

He added in conclusion: "In the name of all those heroes, I say to the entire world and to the terrorists Shamir and Rabin that they will not be able to humiliate our people or browbeat them."

Sudanese Defense Minister Arrives 29 Aug

LD2908201388 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1710 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 29 Aug, JANA—Sudanese Defense Minister Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil and his accompanying delegation this evening arrived in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The fraternal Sudanese defense minister was welcomed upon arrival at Tripoli International Airport by Col Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces; a number of officers from the Libyan Arab Armed Forces; and the ambassador and members of the Sudanese Embassy in Tripoli. [passage omitted]

Revolutionary Movement Statement Issued

LD2908171588 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The movement of the international revolutionary committees have paid tribute to the struggle of the masses for freedom and the elimination of racial discrimination.

In its statement released following the conclusion yesterday of its first international get-together, this movement has paid tribute and gave its support to the people's revolution led by the generation of anger in occupied Palestine through its people's committees against the Zionist foe.

It has denounced the support given by the imperialist U.S. Administration to the Zionists.

It has hailed the struggle waged by the people of Namibia to wreck the regime of racial discrimination in South Africa announcing its continuous support to the liberation movements that are against imperialism, fascism and racism in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean region.

It has also stressed its stand alongside the nation of Red Indians and blacks in North America and alongside all the disintegrated nations striving for achieving their national unity.

Briefs

New Togolese Envoy

Tripoli, Hannibal 29 [29 August], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison received this morning the credentials of the new ambassador in Tripoli of Togo, Mr. Tazi Sant'anna. On handing his credentials Mr. Sant'anna has conveyed the greetings to the leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people from the president and people of Togo. He adds that they pay tribute to the pioneering role assumed by the leader of the revolution for the liberation and unification of Africa. He has also expressed the strong relations between the Libyan Arab and Togo peoples stressing his keen interest on promoting these relations in a manner conducive to serving the African Continent and strengthening its unity. [Text] [*LD3008031588 Tripoli JANA in English 1448 GMT 29 Aug 88*]

Morocco

Rabat Agrees to UN Sahara Peace Plan

LD3008101488 Paris Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Morocco has agreed to the peace plan proposed by the United Nations for the Western Sahara. This plan provides for the implementation of a cease-fire followed by a self-determination poll of the Saharan population. The United Nations is now awaiting the response of the other party concerned, the Polisario front.

PLO Executive Committee Member Arrives

LD2908171288 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Casablanca-Aug-29-(MAP)—Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] member of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived Sunday in Casablanca with a message from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to King Hassan II.

The Palestinian official was greeted upon arrival by Adviser to the King Ahmed Bensouam.

Sudan

Many Upper Nile Areas 'Completely Isolated'

JN2908115488 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Aug (SUNA)—The newspaper AL-SUDANI published here today says that many areas in the Upper Nile Region have become completely isolated after they have been recently swept by floods. The paper adds that the town of Nasir has sustained huge material losses following the flooding of the Sobat River and the collapse of the main water barrier.

Citizens arriving from the area told the newspaper that thousands of citizens have become isolated and their fate is unknown.

On the other hand, citizens arriving from Malakal and other towns in the region affirm that prices have rocketed as a result of the scarcity of commodities and supplies.

It is noteworthy that the only means to transport food and supplies to the region is mainly by river and by air as an auxiliary.

Nile Level Remains Steady

LD2908220988 Kuwait KUNA in English 1413 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 29 (KUNA)—The River Nile is keeping the same level registered during the past two days, the Irrigation Ministry daily communique reported Monday. According to the ministry, the level of 16.14 meters has been registered today compared to a level of 17.04 meters on the same day of 1946 flood. Water flow in El-Girba dam [placename as received] decreased to 598 million cubic meters compared to 641 million cubic meters registered two days ago.

Irrigation authorities declared that the decrease is expected to continue along the River Nile, but the authority urged the Sudanese citizens to reserve a high precaution to keep themselves safe specially in northern Khartoum and the northern region.

SPLA Denies Al-Mahdi, Garang To Meet

EA2908151488 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLM-SPLA, in a statement to Radio SPLA today, has expressed surprise, and denied the statement carried by Khartoum's papers and the BBC that Dr John Garang and Mr Sadiq al-Mahdi were scheduled to meet in a few days.

The spokesman described the claim as a clumsy attempt by the prime minister's men to play down the current peace dialogue between the SPLM-SPLA and the DUP [Democratic Unionist Party].

It is to be recalled that the DUP and the SPLM-SPLA delegation met in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, from 18 to 20 August 1988, and issued a joint communique in which the two sides agreed to meet in 2 weeks time. The two sides also proposed a future meeting between the patron of the DUP, Sayyid Muhammad 'Uthman 'Ali Mirghani and the SPLM-SPLA leader, Comrade John Garang de Mabior.

The spokesman confirmed that Dr John Garang had, according to this communique, agreed in principle to meet the leader of the DUP. The spokesman added that the two sides had retired to go and brief their respective leaderships, and that a second meeting between the SPLM-SPLA and the DUP delegation is expected in a few days.

The spokesman said that even if the prime minister wanted to meet the SPLM leader, such a meeting would necessarily be preceded by preliminary meetings at lower levels, and in any case such meetings would be after the current dialogue with the DUP and after the projected meeting between Dr John Garang and the State Council president, Sayyid 'Ali Mirghani.

What is more, a meeting with Mr Sadiq would depend on the outcome of the current dialogue between the SPLM and the DUP. It may not be necessary, depending on the outcome of the present talks, said the spokesman. Asked about the possible source of such a big rumor, the spokesman repeated that it was fabricated to play down SPLM-SPLA's current dialogue.

He also revealed that reliable sources from Sudan Army garrisons in the south speak of impending mutinies in protest of the war and [the] prime minister's intransigence. Some officers who refused to go for operations against the SPLA have already been arrested.

The spokesman stressed that the alleged meeting between Dr John Garang and Sayyid Sadiq al-Mirghani [as heard] was fabricated to calm down these mutinies and dissatisfaction within the Army under the false illusion that the prime minister is talking peace.

The spokesman concluded the statement saying that such fabrications and unscrupulous play with the people's motions [as heard] for peace were not new to Khartoum. This fact was underlined recently in the chairman's speech to the Sudanese people.

Chadian Opposition Supporters Surrender Weapons
LD2908215088 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] The 2,000 or so supporters of Chadian opposition figure Acheikh Ibn Oumar, who had taken refuge in Sudan after leaving Libya, have now handed all of their weapons over to the Khartoum authorities. This announcement was made by the chief of staff of the Sudanese Army.

Major General Mahdi Abu Nimr adds they are being treated as refugees while they await the mediation underway with the Ndjamena government to permit them to return to Chad.

Finally the general says that security in Darfur Province has improved greatly. According to him, the combined action of the Sudanese police and Army have reduced by 90 percent the looting carried out by Chadian bandits.

Iraqi Ambassador Returns to Khartoum
JN2908110288 Khartoum SUNA in English 1038 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 29 (SUNA)—The Iraqi ambassador to Sudan who had been recalled to his country early this month has returned to Sudan and resumed his work.

Iraqi ambassador was recalled to his country for consultation following an accusation that an Iraqi Embassy official had a hand in the murder of an Iraqi opposition leader in Sudan.

Minister Says Locusts Expected in 2 Weeks
JN2908115888 Khartoum SUNA in English 1040 GMT 29 aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 29 (SUNA)—The Sudan is being surrounded by locust swarms from east and western borders a daily paper reported today.

Locust swarms have multiplied in Ethiopia and are expected to reach the Sudan within two weeks Agriculture Minister Dr Al-Fatih al-Tijani was quoted as saying.

The minister told the paper that he got his information from the Ethiopian agriculture deputy minister.

On the other hand Libya has favorably responded to Sudan's appeal and sent ten helicopter spray planes, twenty trucks and fifty-five cars and quantities of insecticide.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives Chadian President's Message
LD2608210788 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received a message from Chadian President Hissein Habre this morning during his reception of Chadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Lassou Gouara at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage.

The audience was attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche; Habib Ammar, minister of state for internal affairs; Abdelhamid Escheikh, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the charge d'affaires at the Chadian Embassy in Tunisia.

Briefs

Cooperation With Libya

Finance Minister Nouri Zorgati met yesterday with Mr Muhammad al-Huwayj, chairman of the administration board of the Libyan Arab Company for External Investments, and reviewed with him the progress of cooperation between the two sister countries, especially in the field of finance. In this respect, the two sides have decided to create a joint stock company with a capital of $20 million to which the Libyans will contribute 70 percent and the Tunisians 30 percent. This new company will be added to another institution that has already been created by the two countries, namely the Joint International Trade Company. [Text] [*LD2708021788 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Aug 88*]

Western Sahara

Polisario Front Conditionally Accepts UN Plan
WA3008103188 Paris AFP in English 1027 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug 30 (AFP)—The Polisario Front conditionally accepted the U.N. peace plan for the Western Sahara on Tuesday. The front's deputy head Bachir Mustapha said that the acceptance was "under certain conditions". Morocco announced earlier its acceptance "in principle". Mr. Mustapha said that the conflict "now enters a new phase", with difficulties still to overcome.

Ambassador to Vienna on UN Peace Plan
AU3008084588 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 30 Aug 88 p 3

[Excerpt] Despite some criticism of the UN peace plan for Western Sahara, which was presented on 11 August, Salek B. Youssef, the new ambassador of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic—which has not yet been officially recognized by Austria—to Vienna, welcomed this initiative at a press conference yesterday, because it shifts the solving of conflicts to the international level.

As a representative of the West Saharan liberation movement Polisario, Youssef criticized the current peace plan for not mentioning direct negotiations that have been demanded by the UN and OAU resolutions to date. This would make it possible for Morocco to continue sending delegations that do not have any authority and thus downgrade the negotiations to "exploratory talks."

Youssef said that this is all the more deplorable because then only the second possibility—that is, a "yes-no" referendum of the population in the occupied territories—could lead to solving the conflict.

If Morocco were to have to give up Western Sahara on the basis of a referendum, this would mean that Morocco would "lose more face."

Direct negotiations between the two parties to the conflict, on the other hand, could establish the necessary basis for talks and trust—in particular with regard to future neighborly relations—the ambassador said.

In principle, Youssef considered Perez de Cuellar's initiative a contribution to solving the problem, because it puts this problem into the international limelight. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Military Delegation Departs for Visit to USSR

LD2908101388 Kuwait KUNA in English 0855 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 29 (KUNA)—A top Kuwaiti military delegation headed by Chief of Staff of Kuwaiti Armed Forces Major General Mizyad al-Sani left here Monday for the Soviet Union on an official six-day visit. The official Kuwaiti-Soviet talks will focus on ways of fostering bilateral cooperation in the military field in addition to inspecting various Soviet advanced weapons.

The visit falls in line with Kuwait's policy of diversifying sources of weapons and maintaining balanced relations with the big powers.

The two countries' relations have been in the recent years very active, where former Kuwaiti Defence Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah paid an official visit to Moscow in 1984 which resulted in signing an agreement on purchasing Soviet weapons, increasing military contacts and the exchange of expertise in various military fields.

Al-Sani and the accompanying delegation were seen off by Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Khalid al-Sabah and other senior military officials.

Meets USSR's Akhromeyev

LD3008103588 Kuwait KUNA in English 0955 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, Aug 30 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Army Chief of Staff Major General Mizyad al-Sani had talks Tuesday with his Soviet counterpart, Marshal Sergey Akhromeyev.

The official TASS news agency reported that the military chiefs examined bilateral links and the current situation in the Arabian Gulf region. It did not give further details of the talks between Akhromeyev and Al-Sani who is leading a ranking military delegation to discuss ways of upgrading military cooperation between the two countries.

Cabinet Briefed on PRC Visit, Other Issues

LD2808195488 Kuwait KUNA in English 1500 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 28 (KUNA)—The Council of Ministers held a regular meeting here Sunday during which a report was presented by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad on the results of the visit he paid to China in his capacity as member of the seven-man Arab League comittee.

According to State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-Aziz al-Rashid, Shaykh Sabah briefed the Cabinet on the details of the visit and the talks he held with senior Chinese officials on the developments of the Gulf war and effective means to end it. He described the talks as "positive" and noted that they also tackled ways of activating efforts to ensure stabililty and security in the region, Al-Rashid said in a statement to reporters.

Shaykh Sabah also briefed the meeting on the upcoming GCC Ministerial Council meeting which will be held on Sunday of next week in Riyadh, the statement added.

It added that the Cabinet reviewed the content of a letter sent recently to h.h. the amir by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the burning of Al-'Aqsa Mosque.

Then, the statement added, the Cabinet discussed the amir's message in his capacity as chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference on the issue of Namibia's day at the United Nations.

Among other topics discussed in today's Cabinet meeting which was presided over by the Crown Prince and Premeir Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah was the Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva. Al-Rashid said the Council of Ministers hopes that "these talks reach needed results to prevail peace between the two neighbors and security in the region."

Meanwhile, the meeting also was addressed by the Minister of Interior Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad who spoke in detail on the recent purchase of 40 F-18 fighter planes by Kuwait from the United States.

The deal, which was signed here yesterday, followed the first official visit by Shaykh Sa'd to the United States in July. Shaykh Nawwaf explained to the Cabinet the details pertaining to payment for the equipment and date of delivery, Al-Rashid said.

Other reports presented by the ministers to the Cabinet were reports by the Minister of Oil Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah and the Minister of Trade and Industry Faysal al-Khalid.

Al-Khalifah spoke on the talks he had with OPEC's Secretary General Subroto who is in the country for consultations with Kuwait on OPEC's future strategy in preparation for the ministerial council that will be held in November.

Al-Khalid, who just returned form Turkey, briefed the Cabinet on the Turkish-Kuwaiti trade ties and the results of the first meeting of the Kuwait-Turkish joint committee for economic, industrial and technical cooperation.

GCC Ministerial Council To Meet 4-5 Sep

LD2708162888 Kuwait KUNA in English 1158 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 27 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Saturday said that the GCC Ministerial Council will convene a regular session in the Saudi capital Sept 4-5.

Shaykh Sabah told reporters today that the council will discuss a jam-packed agenda, which will include issues related to cooperation between the six GCC members. It will also review the latest development in the region, in light of Iraq and Iran's acceptance of a ceasefire and the start of a U.N.-sponsored negotiations to bring their eight-year-old conflict to a halt.

Shaykh Sabah will head Kuwait's delegation to the council meetings.

PDRY

Al-Bid Meets With PLO's Yasir 'Arafat

EA2808093488 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] This afternoon Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, met with Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, with whom he discussed developments affecting the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas—particularly the escalation of the mass popular uprising in the occupied Palestinian territory and the recent Jordanian measures on legal and administrative disengagement with the occupied West Bank.

They also discussed the outcome of the Central Council and the Palestinian leadership meetings and the consultations by the Palestinian leadership and the brotherly Arab leaders, states, and friends of the Palestinian revolution.

The two sides also dealt with recent developments affecting the peace process between Iraq and Iran under U.N. Security Council Resolution No 598.

The two sides discussed relations between the YSP and the PLO and ways to develop and strengthen them.

During the meeting, the brother secretary general praised the positive results of the courageous uprising of the Palestinian Arab people and the successes of the PLO. He stressed that among essential factors inherent in the persistence, escalation, and success of the uprising were the strength, [word indistinct] cohesion and unity of the PLO, the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people, and sustained Arab support for it in the different forms laid down by the resolutions of the special summit—the uprising summit—in Algeria.

The brother secretary general reiterated the PDRY's firm and principled support for the Palestinian Arab peoples' struggle to regain their legitimate national rights—primarily their rights to return, self-determination, and an independent state.

Replying, Brother Yasir 'Arafat thanked the party, government, and people of Democratic Yemen for hosting the martyr leader Abu Jihad training course for the cubs and flowers of the Palestinian revolution. The course ended this morning with great success. Elements from the martyr Ali Antar vanguards organization also participated.

He expressed satisfaction and appreciation for the support of the YSP leader of the vanguard experiment in the PDRY given to the courageous uprising and Palestinian cause. He also lauded the strength of relations between the Palestinian and Yemeni peoples.

Attending the meeting for the Yemen side were: Brother Muhammad Sa'id Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee; and Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister; and for the Palestinian side: Sister Intisar al-Wazir, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council; Dr Zahdi Hamad; Brother Muhammad Abu Shanab, the PLO charge d'affaires in Aden; and [name indistinct], commander of the Yarmuk camp for cubs.

'Arafat Departs

EA2808093988 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, left Aden this afternoon after a 2-day visit to the country.

Shortly before his departure, Brother Yasir 'Arafat made a statement to Aden news agency in which he expressed pride and happiness over his visit. He said:

At midday today I met the brother secretary general and a number of my brothers in the leadership and government. We discussed matters concerning our Arab nation. I thanked him in the name of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian strugglers for the firm, brotherly, and principled support given by the southern part to their Palestinian brothers at various levels and on various fronts. We regard it as a most splendid example of brotherhood and genuine revolutionary commitment.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat added that he described the situation and events in our occupied land, particularly the escalation of our Palestinian Arab people's uprising. Their strength is steadily increasing as they confront Zionist violence and terrorism against our children, women, and people, even though the infernal Zionist U.S. war machine is continuing its abortive attempt to extinguish the flames of our people's uprising.

The discussion also touched on factors affecting the Palestinian revolution, particularly the recent Jordanian decision and continuing changes in the Arab region, both at the Palestinian and Arab level, and in the United Nations where, as usual, we are confronted by an increasing U.S. determination to support this Zionist enemy.

At the end of his statement, he pointed out that they also discussed the general Arab situation, including the end of the Iranian-Arab war [as heard] and the intimate brotherly relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions. We are proud of this committed and principled Yemeni brotherly stand, he said. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Informs Council of Talks With Jordan's King

LD2908202388 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1720 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 29 Aug (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, this afternoon presided over a Council of Ministers meeting in Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir gave a statement to SPA: On the king's directives, the Council reviewed reports on the political, security, and economic situation in the Arab region. [passage omitted]

The king informed the council about his talks with King Husayn of Jordan during their lengthy meeting yesterday evening in Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah. The king said:

Talks covered issues of common interest. The primary issue concerned continuous full support and backing for the Palestinian cause to which we all attach interest and importance. I have found in my brother King Husayn complete understanding and willingness to continue efforts in this direction. We are fully convinced that the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, will be able—with God's help, unity among its leaders, and the backing of all the brother leaders of the Arab and Islamic nation—to retrieve usurped rights, return to their homes, set up a Palestinian state on their lands, and achieve self-determination for the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

Ulema Council Issues Edict on Capital Punishment

LD2908211888 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1708 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Ta'if, 29 Aug (SPA)—The Council of the Senior Ulema has issued an edict prescribing the death penalty for anyone proven guilty according to religious law of having perpetrated an act of sabotage or any misdeed which undermines security.

This includes attacks on people or on private or public buildings; for example, blowing up houses, mosques, schools, hospitals, factories, bridges, arms depots, reservoirs; public resources of the treasury [bayt al-mal] such as petroleum pipelines; or blowing up planes or hijacking them, and so on.

In the edict issued at its 32d session held in Ta'if 20- 24 August 1988, the council stressed that such malicious acts require that the culprit's blood be shed.

Here is the text of the edict issued by the council of senior ulema:

Edict No 148, dated 24 August 1988:

Thanks be to God, Lord of the universe. Favorable consequences will come to the pious, and there will be hostility only toward those who are oppressors. God has prayed over and blessed the best of his creatures—our prophet Muhammad, his family, and companions, and those who follow his teaching till the day of judgement.

The Council of Senior Ulema, at its 32d session held in Ta'if 20-24 August 1988, notes the numerous incidents of sabotage, as a result of which many innocent people were killed and much property as well as many possessions and public installations destroyed in many Islamic and other countries. The council observes that these acts were carried out by weak-willed and malicious people of little or no faith.

The acts include blowing up houses, setting fire to public and private property, blowing up bridges and tunnels, and blowing up or hijacking planes. In view of the noticeable rise in such crimes in countries near and far and because the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, like other countries, is exposed to such acts of sabotage, the council of senior ulema, believes that it is necessary to consider prescribing a deterrent punishment to anyone who commits an act of sabotage—whether it be against public installations, government interests or others—with the intention of causing havoc or undermining security. [passage omitted]

The council has unanimously decided the following:

1. Anyone who is legally found guilty of having perpetrated an act of sabotage or corruption on earth that undermines security by aggression against life or private or public property, such as blowing up homes, mosques, schools, hospitals, factories, bridges, arms depots, water supplies, and general resources of the treasury such as oil pipelines, as well as blowing up or hijacking airplanes and similar acts will be sentenced to death. [passage omitted]

2. Before the implementation of the previously mentioned punishment, the judiciary courts, appeal bodies, and the higher council of justice must follow the necessary procedures to ascertain the facts thereby to avoid guilt and protect lives and to uphold the tradition that this country adheres to all legal procedures necessary to ascertain that crimes have been committed and to decide their punishment.

3. The council deems it proper that the punishment be announced through the news media. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

'Arafat Arrives in Sanaa, Makes Statement

JN2608175188 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Aug 88

(Text) Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, arrived in Sanaa this evening on a visit of several days to our country.

In an arrival statement to SABA' news agency, Brother Abu 'Ammar explained that he will acquaint President leader Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih with the latest developments of the Palestine question on Palestinian, Arab, and international levels.

He pointed out that among the most important of these developments are the ones in the Palestinian arena inside the occupied Arab territories and the escalation of the popular revolution there despite the crimes and terrorist practices exercised by the Zionist army and the armed Zionist colonizers against unarmed children, women, and old men, and against Islamic holy places.

Confers With Salih

JN2708062288 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, at his office last night.

They discussed, during the meeting, the situation in the Arab and international arenas, particularly developments in the Palestinian issue. They also discussed militant relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions.

Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] briefed the brother president on the recent developments in the Palestinian arena and on the Arab and international levels in light of the escalation in the mammoth popular revolution waged by the Palestinian Arab people inside the occupied territory against the Zionist occupation authorities and the ugly crimes and inhuman practices by the Zionists and occupation authorities against the Palestinian people.

Abu 'Ammar also briefed the president on the situation of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and the aerial and naval aggressions against these camps and the Lebanese villages by the Zionist enemy and its agents in southern Lebanon.

The brother president reiterated, during the meeting, our country's firm, principled, and absolute support for the Palestinian revolution. He also greeted the heroic struggle waged by the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territory to liberate their usurped territory and establish their independent state on their national soil under their sole, legitimate representative, the PLO.

Development Minister Travels to Ethiopia

JN2908150388 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, head of the Central Planning Authority, and Standing Committee member, left Sanaa today for a visit to Socialist Ethiopia.

Dr al-'Attar told SABA' he is carrying a letter from brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council in Ethiopia. He will discuss with Ethiopian officials avenues and prospects for increased cooperation, said Al-'Attar.

Tariq 'Aziz Holds Conference on Negotiations

JN2908141488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1323 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 29 Aug (INA)—Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz held a press conference at the Palais des Nations in Geneva today in which he talked about the progress of the Iraqi-Iranian talks and the stands of the two sides on the issues discussed.

The 45-minute press conference began with a statement by the foreign minister in which he explained in detail Iraq's stand and peaceful aspirations from the time the conflict began until the cease-fire.

In his statement at the press conference Tariq 'Aziz said:

"When I arrived in Geneva I made a short statement in which I said that we have come with good intentions to ensure the success of negotiations and achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace. I said the success of these negotiations depends on the good intentions of the other side. Ever since then I have refrained from meeting with you. I apologize for that, and as an old colleague I understand the reason for your anxiety. However, I deliberately did not meet with you because we believe it would have been better for the two delegations to begin serious work with good intentions to achieve the desired objectives of the negotiations. Regrettably it is clear to me that the other side is making almost daily statements to the press both here in Geneva and outside conveying in a mistaken and distorted manner the facts connected with the negotiations. Therefore, I have decided to give you a clear picture and tell you exactly what has happened and what is happening."

Tariq 'Aziz added: When talking about good intentions, we say that from last Thursday to this moment we have not found any measure of good intentions on the part of the other side to bring about success that will lead to a comprehensive and lasting peace according to UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

What exactly happened? In the past few days the Iranian delegation tried to shuffle the cards in the presence of the media and present the facts contrary to what they really are.

As you know, on 6 August 1988 President Saddam Husayn made a statement declaring Iraq's readiness to observe a cease-fire on condition that Iran accept direct negotiations for discussion and implementation of the articles of Resolution No 598. Immediately after that historic declaration, the UN secretary general expressed his intention to announce a date for a cease-fire as early as possible. On 8 August we reached an agreement with the secretary general through our representative at the United Nations, Ambassador 'Ismat Kittani, on the times for the cease-fire and for direct negotiations to begin.

Tariq 'Aziz explained: It is really delightful that this agreement was effected and the cease-fire entered into force on 20 August. During the period between our agreement with the secretary general on the date of the cease-fire and the date on which the cease-fire became effective, initial contacts were made between the UN secretary general and the two sides aimed at an understanding on some arrangements related to implementation of the cease-fire.

Thus, a cease-fire became possible and was in effect on the agreed upon date. However, there were other substantial issues that had to be discussed and agreed upon in the direct negotiations in Geneva. Specifically, there were the issues of navigation in the Gulf and the clearing of Shatt al-'Arab waterway. 'Aziz said: When we began negotiations on Thursday, we supposed that these two points would be discussed and quickly agreed upon.

Arrangements for a cease-fire on the ground and in the air and related mutual commitments were made in quite clear detail. A paper was initially discussed by the two sides and with the General Secretariat on arrangements for a cease-fire on the ground and in the air.

However, when we began discussing arrangements for a cease-fire at sea, especially the subject of free navigation, we had to expand on the subject of both sides' commitments in this regard.

The Iranian position was as follows: They said they were ready for free navigation according to international law. We said: No, this is not enough. We must reach an agreement on the details, because it is not enough to maintain a cease-fire on the ground according to international law, and it is not enough to say that we will abide by a cease-fire in the air according to international law.

Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz explained: This is vague language. Such vague language cannot help enhance the cease-fire and determine the two sides' clear commitments.

We told them that if they were ready to respect their commitments toward a cease-fire in the Gulf and respect full freedom of navigation, they must be as ready as we are to commit themselves and refrain from intercepting and inspecting Iraqi ships regardless of the type. They must also not perform any obstructive acts against any Iraqi ship and refrain from threatening in any way freedom of navigation of Iraqi ships or the ships that call on Iraqi ports or leave these ports for the high seas. Until now, the Iranian delegation has been maneuvering on this substantial issue. This Iranian stand is unacceptable.

Tariq 'Aziz also said: The same language and detailed regulations used in applying the cease-fire on the ground and in the air must be used and applied to the two sides' commitments to the cease-fire at sea. Then there will be

an equitable balance in the commitments of the two sides, and we can say that the cease-fire has been consolidated and protected against all violations.

With regard to the second matter, the clearing of Shatt al-'Arab, ever since Resolution No 598 was adopted in July 1987, we have made it clear to the UN secretary general that immediately after the cease-fire Iraq wants the United Nations to assume responsibility for clearing the Shatt al-'Arab waterway and making it suitable for ordinary and innocent navigation.

To strengthen that stand after recent developments, I sent a message to the secretary general in that regard on 20 July 1988 and another message on 11 August 1988. According to my information, the secretary general understood our stand and sympathized with it.

'Aziz added: The basis of the proposal is that it is Iraq's natural right to benefit from the immediate clearing of Shatt al-'Arab after the cease-fire to make it fit for innocent and ordinary navigation. That is because Shatt al-'Arab is Iraq's only outlet to the sea. At the same time, Iran has actually begun to use its ports and coast, and thus has immediately benefitted from the cease-fire.

It is natural, logical, and legitimate for Iraq to benefit immediately from the cease-fire coming into force, for Shatt al-'Arab is closed, but we want to gain time to ask the secretary general to assume the responsibility of clearing Iraq's only outlet to the sea. We made the proposal in good faith within the cease-fire arrangements.

Within the framework of the climate of peace, and since we are seeking to achieve peace between our two countries, the two countries must benefit equitably from the first step of the cease-fire.

Tariq 'Aziz explained: Iran's stand in the direct negotiations on the matter was represented by saying: "We do not object to clearing Shatt al-'Arab, but it is better for that to take place later."

What is the meaning of that? It clearly means that they want to use it as a card to exert pressure on Iraq during the discussion of the articles of Security Council Resolution No 598. Such a stand neither indicates good intentions nor does it entail equality in benefiting from the first step, namely the cease-fire. That in short is what happened during the direct negotiations we held last Thursday and Friday. The other discussions between the two sides and between the UN secretariat also centered on these two issues.

'Aziz added: I have read and heard reports that other topics were discussed. These topics were mentioned by the Iranians but were not discussed because we are still in the first circle, and we are still discussing the arrangements and the commitments of the two sides on the first article of the resolution, the cease-fire, and we have not reached complete agreement on the matter.

That in short is what happened. I wanted to give you a picture. I am now ready to answer your questions.

Tariq 'Aziz then began to answer journalists' questions. He said the Iranians must refrain from any hostile action against ships plying the Gulf and such ships must enjoy complete freedom of navigation.

He referred to Iraq's request to the United Nations to assume the task of clearing Shatt al-'Arab because it is not navigable at present as it was a battlefield during the war.

'Aziz said a country's complete sovereignty over a waterway does not mean that a neighboring country could not use that waterway. He noted that Iran used that waterway throughout history. In this regard Tariq 'Aziz emphasized that the concept of the freedom of navigation is indivisible.

Answering a question, the foreign minister said he is prepared to remain in Geneva "for as long as my presence here is required."

Tariq 'Aziz referred to the statement made in Baghdad yesterday by Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs, in which he said the 1975 treaty is no longer in force. 'Aziz asserted that the Iranian government did not recognize the Algiers agreement but flagrantly violated it during 1979-80. He said Iraq was compelled to consider the treaty null and void as a result of deliberate and blatant violations by the Iranian side.

'Aziz said Iran adopts a selective stand toward international law. He noted that Iraq had accepted Resolution 598 and is prepared to cooperate with the UN secretary general in its implementation. 'Aziz declared: "Our stand is crystal clear."

Sa'dun Hammadi Responds to Iranian Statements

JN2808181688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1717 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs, has made a statement to INA tonight in which he said:

In reply to the repeated statements by Iranian officials, especially the president of the Republic, regarding the negotiations going on in Geneva, we wish to make the following clear:

1. Once again, Iraq affirms that its stand toward the achievement of a just and honorable peace is firm. It has made important practical steps to achieve peace, especially the noble initiative contained in President Saddam Husayn's address on 6 August 1988, in which Iraq agreed to a cease-fire before the direct talks. This represented a basic serious step to achieve peace and implement Security Council Resolution No 598.

Also, the Iraqi delegation showed the necessary responsibility and cooperation to move the negotiations into a practical road leading to peace. The Iranian side is the party that is placing obstacles and pretexts and giving false interpretations and explanations to the implications of Security Council Resolution No 598, based on its known wishes and stands of maneuvering, deception, and stalling for time. This is further proof of the lack of seriousness in its acceptance of the Security Council resolution, and increases our suspicion of its peace intentions.

2. The repeated statements on the 1975 agreement also prove the lack of seriousness of the Iranian regime. This regime is adhering to an agreement that the Iranian side did not respect in its most important clauses—namely, the non-interference in internal affairs, the withdrawal from the Iraqi territories that were under the Iranian occupation during the rule of the shah, and threatening [as received] the security and safety of Iraq.

This totally contradicts the spirit and letter of that agreement. This has obliged Iraq to abrogate that agreement after Iranian conduct rendered it useless. This agreement no longer exists, and the Iranian side must be realistic. It should abandon its illusions, ambitions, and wishes to win illegitimate gains at the expense of Iraq. It should agree to work on a new agreement.

3. Shatt al-'Arab is a sovereign Iraqi river, and it has always been a sovereign Iraqi river throughout history. It is Iraq's only outlet to the Gulf and the artery connecting it to the outside world. Any attempt to undermine Iraq's full sovereignty over this vital waterway will be totally rejected by us. The Iranian side must appreciate this fact and act accordingly in order to promote a just and lasting peace between the two sides.

Any prevarication by the Iranian side in this regard will harm the cause of peace. Irresponsible talk by Iranian officials on mobilization and military threats to use force conflict with the claims about their anxiousness to achieve peace and implement the Security Council resolution, and will be met only by our rejection and complete readiness to confront any action of a hostile nature. The Iranian regime will be responsible for the results.

Negotiations in Geneva With Iran Continue

'Difficulties' Acknowledged

JN2908113088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1102 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 29 Aug (INA)—Francois Giuliani, official spokesman for the UN secretary general, has announced that a UN technical team is currently preparing the minutes on the separate meetings between the Iraqi and Iranian technical delegations last night for presentation to the UN secretary general.

The spokesman said, at a press conference here today, that the UN team of technical experts held separate meetings with the Iraqi and Iranian technical teams at the Palace of Nations in Geneva until 0100 Geneva local time today.

Giuliani added that he will announce later today the time of the next session of the negotiations on the ministerial level. Giuliani said the negotiations have not reached a dead end and that they are continuing. He said that we cannot ignore the fact that there are difficulties.

New Session Announced

JN2908172488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1647 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 29 Aug (INA)—Francois Giuliani, the UN secretary general's official spokesman announced tonight that a complete official meeting on a ministerial level will be held later tonight between the Iraqi and Iranian sides in the same hall where the negotiations began last Thursday.

Giuliani told a news conference at the Palais des Nations in Geneva that the time of the meeting will be fixed later, and it might begin between 2000 and 2100 Geneva local time, 2200 and 2300 Baghdad time.

He said that the UN experts presented to the secretary general, who patronizes the negotiations, minutes of the consultations they held last night with two teams of Iraqi and Iranian experts individually.

Talks Temporarily Postponed

JN2908201588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 29 Aug (INA)—Francois Guiliani, the UN secretary general's official spokesman, announced a few minutes ago the postponement of the official meeting on the ministerial level between the Iraqi and Iranian sides under UN supervision, scheduled to be held tonight, until tomorrow.

Giuliani told journalists at the Palais des Nations in Geneva that consultations are still continuing on the technical level between UN experts and between the Iraqi and Iranian delegations separately. Giulani, however, did not specify the time of the official meeting now scheduled for tomorrow.

'Technical' Talks Continue

JN3008122088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 30 Aug (INA)—Francois Giuliani, official spokesman for the UN secretary general, has announced that negotiations are continuing on the technical level between UN experts and the Iraqi and Iranian delegations separately at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

In a press conference here today, he said that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar held contacts with the five UN Security Council permanent member states yesterday through their representatives in Geneva on the results of the consultations he has held so far with the two sides. He explained that the UN Security Council is following up the progress of negotiations.

Giuliani did not specify a date for convening a full session for today's negotiations. He told journalists: I am stationed here and you will be informed in time.

INA Reports Iranian Cease-Fire Violations

JN2808150088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—The Iranian forces have continued to violate the cease-fire at various front sectors.

INA learned that the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observers Group [UNIIMOG] was informed of these violations. During the period between 0600 on 23 August and 0600 on 24 Aug, the following Iranian violations occurred:

At the special I Army Corps sector, the Iranians built two observation posts at 100 meters and 500 meters respectively from our positions at (?Farahabad) region.

At 1600 the same day, three Iranian vehicles moved toward the two observation posts carrying three officers and a number of soldiers. Necessary measures were immediately taken to remove the posts, expel the enemy to the opposite bunker and restore things to normal.

At the VII Army Corps sector, an enemy soldier fired four rifle shots from Abadan's southern neck area toward our positions at 2350 on 23 August. UNIIMOG at the sector was informed and told of the need to press the Iranian side to stop its continued violations of the cease-fire.

At the IV Army Corps sector, two Iranian soldiers advanced at 0945 on the same day. At 1745 on the same day, the Iranian side fired red flares at southern 'Ayn Kizah [name as received] region.

UNIIMOG was informed and asked to interfere and prevent Iranian violations. The group returned the two soldiers to their positions.

The Iranians also committed several violations between 0600 on 24 August and 0600 on 25 August. Three Iranian soldiers advanced toward one of our units in the III Army Corps sector. Our units warned them to return to their positions, and UNIIMOG was informed.

At the IV Army Corps sector, two Iranian helicopters, one of which was coming from deep inside Iran, were seen flying toward 'Ayn al-Khawsh [name as received] between 1445 and 1605 on 24 August. One was flying toward Musian and the other from [as received] Dehloran. A movement of enemy vehicles coming from deep inside Iran toward Musian was spotted. The vehicles disappeared east of Nahr al-Duwayrij. UNIIMOG was informed of the Iranian violations.

At the VII Army Corps sector, an Iranian engineering effort to raise the height of an Iranian bunker was spotted. UNIIMOG was informed and told to press the Iranian side to stop such violations.

Between 0600 on 25 August and 0600 on 26 August, other Iranian violations occurred. The enemy fired a DShK tracer bullet toward Iraqi units at the III Army Corps sector. UNIIMOG was informed. Our units did not return fire.

At the IV Army Corps sector, four Iranian observation posts were seen at 1200-1500 meters from our units. UNIIMOG was notified and told to ask the Iranians to push the posts back at least 2 km away from our units.

Between 0600 on 26 August and 0600 on 27 August, an Iranian jeep attempted to approach our units at the Special I Army Corps sector at 1130 on 26 August. The jeep was forced to return to the Iranian side, and UNIIMOG was notified.

At the III Army Corps sector, the enemy built a monitoring post opposite our units at 0820 on 26 August. The international observers were informed to take necessary measures.

At the IV Army Corps sector, a military vehicle carrying four Iranians advanced at 1110. They were warned and forced to return to their positions.

The UNIIMOG was notified in writing to press the Iranian side to stop their violations of the cease-fire and remove observation posts built after the cease-fire entered into force on 20 August.

More Violations Reported

JN2908162288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—The Iranian forces have continued to violate the cease-fire in several sectors of the front for the 8th successive day after the implementation of the cease-fire on 20 August. The UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG] has been notified of the latest violations.

During the period between 0600 [0200 GMT] on 27 August and 0600 on 28 August the following Iranian violations occurred:

In the Special I Army Corps sector: At 1035 [0535 GMT] on 27 August two enemy landrovers approached from Mehran to a distance of 600 meters from our positions.

Eight men disembarked from the car and they were addressed through the loudspeaker but did not heed the call, and so they were compelled to withdraw deep within Iranian territory.

At 2315 on 27 August an enemy soldier crossed the (?Kalejan) river. He was warned not to approach our units and he returned to his position. At 2330 on the same day he crossed the river again and appropriate measures were taken to make him retreat.

UNIIMOG was informed of the two violations.

In the III Army Corps sector, at 0845 [0445 GMT] on 27 August the enemy hoisted an Iranian flag opposite a position of our units. UNIIMOG was informed that such an action is inadmissible.

At 0930 on 28 August the enemy placed two Iranian flags on the opposite side and erected barbed wire opposite two points. The enemy also installed a machinegun emplacement to protect the two said points. The officers liaising with UNIIMOG were informed of the violations.

In the VII Army Corps sector an enemy boat carrying one person appeared and reached the middle of Shatt al-'Arab at 1635 on 27 August. It was warned and compelled to retreat. At 1655 on the same day another Iranian boat appeared. It was carrying six persons from the mouth of the Karun (?to) the far side of Shatt al-'Arab. It was warned and compelled to retreat.

UNIIMOG was notified of all these incidents and was asked to make the Iranian side understand that the Iraqi forces will not allow any violation of any kind on any level.

UN's Jovic Says Cease-Fire Situation 'Calm'

JN2808110088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group, has stated that the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran continues to be enforced and that the situation is calm.

At a news conference in the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Western Asia in Baghdad today, Jovic said that he is satisfied with what has been achieved, that there are no problems, and that the incidents the observer group has had to tackle have been dealt with and settled quickly.

He explained that there are 145 international observers and 180 technicians of various nationalities on the Iraqi side who assume the responsibility of supervising the cease-fire, and that there is a similar number on the Iranian side.

Jovic expressed satisfaction at the Iraqi authorities' efforts to save the life of the Danish major who was suffering from sunstroke, adding that the Iraqi authorities offered facilities in a record time.

The news conference was attended by Gen Jovic's two assistants in Baghdad.

Equipment, Vehicles for UN Observers Arrive

JN2708083688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0824 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA)—A UN plane, the second during the past 24 hours, arrived here this morning carrying technical equipment and vehicles for the UN observers. Another plane arrived yesterday also carrying technical equipment and vehicles.

Technicians Working To Refurbish Ports

JN2808074688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—Iraqi technicians are working continuously to implement a plan to bring Iraqi ports on the Arabian Gulf back into operation. This was announced by Falih al-Musa, director general of Iraqi ports, in statements published by AL-THAWRAH today. Al-Musa said that the first stage of the plan is to prepare these ports for receiving ships with a 9-meter draft.

He added that the second stage will enable these ports to receive ships with a 12.5-meter draft. He added that this stage will be completed following the removal of wreckage from the waterways left by the war, and that this stage will be carried out in the near future.

Iraqi ports resumed their operations immediately following the cease-fire on 20 August. The Iraqi oil tanker "Ayn Zalah", and the commercial ship "Al-Idris" had loaded and sailed, and the Arab vessel "Ibn al-Haytham" had sailed after being stranded throughout the years of the war.

Rabin Notes 'Military Threat' to Security

TA3008054988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Report by military correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Despite all the newspaper headlines and the involvement in the issue of the territories, the greatest threat to Israel's security is the military threat.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, addressing IDF veterans in Bet Halohem in Tel Aviv, emphasized that over the last year there has been an acceleration in the arms race. There were weapons deals between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union, a weapons deal between Saudi Arabia and Britain involving $20 billion, other deals between the Soviet Union and Iraq, and a surface-to-surface missiles deal between the PRC and Saudi Arabia. At the same time, extensive use has been made of surface-to-surface missiles and chemical weapons. Rabin also noted the end of the Iran-Iraq war as an important factor.

[Begin Rabin recording] All these factors create another challenge to the IDF, Israel, and its defense policy, which is aimed at preventing war and deterring our enemies from launching a war against us. At the same time, if our deterrence power is insufficient and a war is forced upon us, we must be prepared to overcome the attacking forces. [end recording]

Referring to the situation in the territories Minister Rabin said that since the beginning of the uprising, there have been only 10 incidents involving the use of firearms; between 60-70 percent of the incidents involve stone throwing, and not even one death has been caused by these incidents.

[Begin Rabin recording] I have heard on the radio that one of the Tehiya candidates to the Knesset has announced that the Shin Bet has a list of 1,200 men who are the leaders. This is not serious. Believe me, if there were only 1,200 men whose detention would have put an end to the problem, we would have already done so. [end recording]

Over the last 9 months 18,000 [as heard] people have been detained. Today there are 5,600 local inhabitants under detention in the IDF detention installations; 2,600 of them are administrative detainees. The defense minister clarified that 60 deportees and 5,600 detainees have not solved the problem. We must deal with the problem with patience, Rabin said.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Qiryat Arba' Resident Stoned

TA2908173588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] This afternoon in Hebron, a resident of Qiryat Arba' was wounded by a stone thrown at the car in which she was traveling. The driver of the car, Arye Domb, told our correspondent Moti Amir that as the car was passing Policeman Square, it was attacked by some 20 youths with stones. He was only able to escape and evacuate the wounded woman after firing eight bullets in the air while driving very fast. An IDF unit arrived later and dispersed the rioters by force.

IDF Wounds Nabulus Youth

TA2908190188 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Despite the curfew, riots occurred in the Nabulus casbah today, during which residents hurled stones at soldiers. The soldiers opened fire, wounding a local youth. The curfew on Nabulus was imposed 4 days ago. [passage omitted]

Curfew Update 30 Aug

TA3008044288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] A curfew has been imposed on the Jabalyah and Al-Burayj refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. A curfew is also in effect in the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp. This is reported by our correspondent Moti Amir.

In Judaea and Samaria the curfew has been lifted from all places except for Bani Na'm in the Hebron area.

General Strike 30 Aug

TA3008093688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Swastikas were painted early this morning on the monument to 35 soldiers who died in the independence war near Gush 'Ezyon, as well as on the monument to the French Jews who died in the holocaust located near Rogelit. Swastikas were also painted on all the road signs on the road from Gush 'Ezyon to Ha'ela Valley. Many PLO flags were raised along this road, too.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a general strike is observed in the territories today and only a few workers left for their jobs. The inhabitants of the territories are thus following the call to strike in support of the deportees.

This morning the security forces imposed a curfew on the Jabalyah and Al-Burayj refugee camps in order to prevent disturbances.

'Terrorist' Killed in Clash With SLA, IDF

TA3008104888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] A terrorist was killed this morning in South Lebanon in a clash between a small terrorist group and a force of the IDF and the South Lebanese Army [SLA]. Our reporter Jack Katzenell says the clash was reported this morning by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Jack Katzenell asked Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for his reaction to the incident with terrorists in south Lebanon this morning.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] The efforts of the Palestinian terror groups to infiltrate into the territory of Israel for the purpose of murder and atrocities continue. What stops them are the activities of the IDF and the SLA. Therefore, whatever they try normally fails, and our responsibility is to prevent the Palestinian terror groups from succeeding in inflicting terror into Israel from Lebanon.

[Katzenell] Were there any casualties among ours or the SLA soldiers?

[Rabin] The first encounter was by the SLA soldiers. The IDF soldiers joined them, and, to the best of my knowledge, there are no casualties on our side. [end recording]

Tamir, PRC UN Envoy Meet in New York

TA3008050088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] China's UN ambassador says his government will not be an obstacle to peace moves in the Middle East. He was speaking to Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir in New York. Jonathan Shachter reports:

[Begin recording] The meeting lasted 90 minutes and was described as very friendly and very open. Tamir and the Chinese ambassador, Li Luye, exchanged views concerning the situation in the Middle East, and both sides gave their evaluations of global developments and the peace process. In presenting his government's views, the Chinese ambassador told Mr Tamir that the Chinese would not pose an obstacle to peace or to any just or comprehensive settlement of Middle East problems.

The meeting is seen as part of the ongoing contacts between the two countries and as a follow-up to Foreign Minister Peres' meeting with the Chinese foreign minister last September. Israeli sources say they hope another meeting between the two foreign ministers will take place this year, but they will probably not know just when until mid-September. [end recording]

PLO Radio Continues Operation Despite Air Raid

TA2908183788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Aug 88 p 10

[Text] The battle of the airwaves between the PLO and Israel reached new levels yesterday as Fatah's station in 'Ayn al-Hulwah, outside Sidon, resumed broadcasts only two weeks after being bombarded by the air force.

In Syria, Ahmad Jibril's Al-Quds radio station, whose medium-wave broadcasts Israel had been jamming in the territories for months, yesterday began experimental broadcasts on an extremely powerful short-wave signal.

High Court Rejects Al-Husayni Appeal 30 Aug

TA3008095288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] A short time ago the High Court of Justice rejected Faysal al-Husayni's appeal against the defense minister. Al-Husayni demanded that he and his lawyers be allowed to review the confidential information on the basis of which his arrest order was issued. The justices stated that Al-Husayni will be able to appeal to the High Court of Justice after his case is decided by the district court.

Concerning Al-Husayni's second request—opening his case to the public—the justices stated that the presence of the lawyers and the guards does not make the discussion public. The justices added that the district court's decision was unequivocal. This is reported by legal affairs correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack.

PLO Seeks To Shake Confidence in U.S. Support

TA2908181788 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Aug 88 p A14

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "How To Encourage the Uprising"; boldface as published]

[Text] An official UN document published a few years ago referred to Yasir 'Arafat as "the supreme commander of the Palestinian Revolution Forces." We were, therefore, not surprised when the UN secretary general met 'Arafat in Geneva 2 days ago.

After the PLO suffered two defeats in 1983—in Beirut (by Israel) and in Tripoli (by Syria)—the United Nations was called upon to boost the spirit of the "Palestinian revolution." The United Nations convoked the "Palestine convention" in Geneva. The "supreme commander's" blessing was read out. Israel and other Western countries boycotted the convention.

The United Nations, however, was obliged to provide services to the convention and its publications because it convened according to UN General Assembly resolutions. The Palestine convention indeed provided the terrorist ranks with encouragement; it could not, however, make a political difference because it was opposed by a firm Israeli-U.S. front.

By the same token, we were not surprised when the National Press Club, based in Washington D.C., invited 'Arafat to address it. The press is, unintentionally, both a target and an indirect ally of the terror organizations. The prime goal of terror is to make the demands of the group it represents known to the world. Only a few terrorists believe they can defeat governments through terror. These groups are, nevertheless, convinced that terrorism is the best way to get the media's attention, and through it reach the world's consciousness.

The media has to report everything. That is why it reports terror acts, thus inadvertently bearing the terrorists' messages. This in turn encourages the terrorists, who know that even if their military goals are not reached, the publicity they get will bring them closer to their political objectives.

That is why the invitation the National Press Club sent to 'Arafat did not come as a surprise. It would likewise come as no surprise if these two moves encourage the intifada [uprising] and incite the militant elements in the popular committees demanding an extension of the armed struggle against Israel.

It is hard for the PLO to provide help to the strike forces. In their distress their members attempt to settle disagreements with their internal opponents. The same happened in the 1936-1939 riots, during which Arabs killed far more Arabs than they did Jews. That is why 'Arafat is trying to provide the intifada with moral support. He knows he cannot enter Washington because he is on the persona non grata list of terrorists, however, an invitation from the media serves his purpose.

'Arafat knows he cannot beat Israel with firebombs and mines. Instead, he is trying to shake Israeli society's confidence in U.S. support for Israel and the degree to which it can be stretched. The PLO is playing its cards cleverly, while the Israeli response is far from sophisticated.

The most outstanding example was the leak of a conversation the Israeli minister plenipotentiary held with the deputy secretary of state concerning the deportation of the leaders of the intifada from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Instead of using this conversation to alarm the U.S. political parties and prevent the United States from supporting the announcement of the president of the Security Council, someone rushed to leak it, thus preventing the United States from backing away from the deputy secretary of state's comments.

What could Israel possibly gain by leaking the U.S. position on the deportations, thereby weakening the deterrence of this punishment? Who could possibly be interested in highlighting the differences of opinion between Jerusalem and Washington?

Another example: The Arab lobby in Washington filed a complaint alleging that Israel is violating the rights of Arab workers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. It requested that the free trade zone agreement with Israel be suspended. The U.S. Trade Department replied that it will examine the case and, if the charges are corroborated, reexamine the accord in April 1989.

By filing such a complaint the Arab lobby emulated the tactics of the Israeli lobby's struggle against the surrender of U.S. companies to the Arab boycott. It is incorrect to portray the Arab complaint as a threat to Israel in the form of U.S. sanctions. In the meantime, the complaint inadvertently serves the Arab psychological war machine seeking to shake Israel's confidence in U.S. support.

Even the UN Security Council president's announcement, despite the condemnation of Israel it contains, demonstrates the friendly U.S. attitude. This attitude prevented a sharp anti-Israeli resolution by threatening to veto it. An announcement by the rotating president cannot be vetoed.

The U.S. political parties and labor unions rejected the Trade Department's announcement regarding investigating the Arab complaint. At the same time, however, the Arab papers were able to convey the following message from the Israeli media to the intifada activists: The United States no longer supports Israel.

When the free trade zone agreement was signed, experts downplayed its significance, but when the Trade Department investigates an Arab complaint, it is presented as a threat to the agreement, potentially costing us hundreds of millions of dollars. The same applies to political issues. When the Republican Party approves a strictly pro-Israel political platform, nothing much is made of it, but when the Democratic Party fails to repeat the same slogans, it is referred to as an Israeli defeat.

Strategically, the United States stands by Israel's side. The agreements that have been signed over the last few years are the best proof of this. The differences of opinion concern tactical steps. How large these gaps will be depends to a large extent on Israeli steadfastness. The United States supported Israel for as long as Israel was unified in its opposition to an international conference.

The U.S. stand slightly changed in parallel to changes in the Israeli Government's stand on the issue. The same holds true for the attitude toward the Palestinian state and the PLO: As long as there is a broad consensus in Israel against them, U.S. support is guaranteed.

That is why 'Arafat is trying to erode the Israeli public stand. In this way he is attempting to breakdown U.S. resistance.

Briefs

Most Soviet Jews 'Drop Out'

The "drop out" rate for Russian Jews leaving the Soviet Union this month reached a new peak of 97 per cent, according to the Aliya Department of the Jewish Agency. So far this month, 1,277 Jews were allowed to leave the Soviet Union, but only 46 came to Israel. The others, most of whom left on Israeli visas, chose other destinations on reaching Vienna. Only 22 Jews came to Israel by way of Bucharest. [Text] [*TA2808091988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 August p 8*]

King Leaves on 'Working Visit' to Saudi Arabia

JN2808113488 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman on a working visit to Saudi Arabia this afternoon. During the visit, he will hold talks with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, as part of continued consultations and coordination between the two Arab leaders on various current Arab issues, developments in the region, and consolidation of relations between the two fraternal countries.

His majesty was seen off by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Senate president, the court minister, the Jordanian Armed Forces commander in chief, the ministers, and senior civil and military officials. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath before His Majesty King Husayn in the presence of the ministers as his majesty's regent during his absence abroad.

His Majesty King Husayn is accompanied on this visit by Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite court; His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, the chief chamberlain; His Highness Prince 'Ali ibn Nayif, his majesty's private secretary; and Al-Sharif Fawwaz Zabin 'Abdallah, his majesty's adviser for tribal affairs and commander of the Desert Force and the Border Guard. The Saudi ambassador in Amman left on the same plane.

Returns From Visit

JN2908154688 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn returned home this afternoon following a 2-day working visit to Saudi Arabia. During the visit, meetings were held between His Majesty King Husayn and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, dealing with issues of mutual interest, the most outstanding of which was the Iraq-Iran war. The Two Arab leaders voiced their support for efforts to attain a lasting and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran.

His Majesty King Husayn also reviewed recent Jordanian measures on the occupied West Bank. These measures were taken in response to both the PLO demands and the general Arab approach at the Algiers summit. His Majesty King Husayn explained that the recent Jordanian measures will effectively and positively contribute to supporting the legitimate Palestinian rights.

The meetings were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim. They were attended on the Saudi side by His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and the inspector general; His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; His Highness Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin, deputy Amir of the Mecca area; and 'Ali al-Sha'ir, information minister. [passage omitted]

TIMES Reports on Trade Talks With Iraq

JN2708071288 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Aug 88 p 6

[By Salamah B. Ni'mat, JORDAN TIMES economics correspondent]

[Text] Amman—Jordanian and Iraqi officials have discussed bilateral trade and measures to promote industrial and trade cooperation between the two countries, it was announced Thursday [25 August].

Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Trade Under-Secretary Qabis 'Abd al-Fattah said in a statement that Iraq considered Jordanian products "as if they were Iraqi products," and that the Iraqi public "feels that Jordan's markets are an extension of the Iraqi markets."

'Abd al-Fattah's statements, which came after a meeting with his Jordanian counterpart Muhammad al-Saqqaf, came as a hint to Jordanian exporters of a possible solution to a problem involving the financing of $100 million worth of exports to Iraq. The exports were stopped for exceeding a bilateral trade quota.

The JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, did not offer details of the talks but said the two sides discussed questions related to bilateral trade and looked into measures to promote industrial and trade cooperation between the two countries.

"The ongoing meetings (of the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Committee) will address economic subjects of concern to the two countries and will look into proper measures for implementing the committee's resolutions taken at the eight meetings," according to 'Abd al-Fattah.

In a recent interview with the JORDAN TIMES, Industry and Trade Minsiter Hamdi al-Tabba' said the government was consulting with Iraq on ways to finance Jordanian private-sector exports to Iraq.

Jordan's exports to Iraq increased in 1987 to JD [Jordan Dinars] 60 million, compared to JD 42 million the previous year. Its imports from Iraq climbed from JD 80 million in 1986 to JD 100 million in 1987, according to the Central Bank of Jordan's monthly statistical bulletin.

In April, the Central Bank announced it had stopped financing Jordanian exports to Iraq because they exceeded the quota ceiling defined by a bilateral trade protocol. The government recently started allowing Jordanian industrialists to export outside the trade agreement.

Tabbaa noted that an end to Gulf war "will reflect positively on our economy in the area of investments and attempts to lower unemployment." He stressed the readiness of Jordan's private and public sectors" to take part in the rebuilding of the Iraqi economy after the war."

The minister earlier said he was optimistic about reaching an agreement with Iraq on the trade problem: "We enjoy excellent relations with Iraq and this problem will not be an obstacle between us. The problem will be solved in the mutual interest of both countries," he said. He said the government was considering direct and indirect subsidies for Jordanian exporters to increase their competitiveness in regional and international markets. He said the idea was now "under consideration" and measures in this regard would be coming soon.

Commenting on the government's recent measures to boost investments by easing protectionism, he said the government's aim was to "encourage the private sector to assume its role in the national economy within a free atmosphere and the principle of private enterprise." He added that over the last three years, protectionism was discovered to have "halted investments" as no industries similar to those protected were estblished. "What concerns us the most, in the end, are the interests of consumers, we are now talking full liberalisation."

On Nearing 'Final Settlement'

JN2808123688 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Aug 88 pp 1, 2

[By Salamah B. Ni'mat, JORDAN TIMES economics correspondent]

[Text] Amman—A four-month trade crisis between Jordan and Iraq appeared to be nearing a final settlement Saturday after an agreement was reached to amend a bilateral trade protocol so as to allow for the financing of Jordanian exports that were in excess of the 1988 trade agreement.

Iraqi Foreign Trade Ministry Undersecretary Qubays 'Abd al-Fattah announced his government's approval of a Jordanian Ministry of Industry and Trade proposal to resume exports by Jordanian industries, many of whom had already started processing Iraqi import orders before the crisis surfaced.

His announcement came during a meeting with Industry and Trade Ministry Secretary General Muhammad al-Saqqaf, Amman Chamber of Industry President Khaldun Abu Hassan and over 150 Jordanian industrialists.

The Iraqi official confirmed that Iraqi letters of credit favouring Jordanian exporters issued before April 16 would be paid in full. He said that import orders worth $100 million in excess of the trade quota would be honoured in agreement with the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Central Bank of Jordan and in coordination with Iraqi authorities. He said the agreement would be implemented within the next two to three weeks.

Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi al-Tabba' said the ministry had narrowed down Iraqi letters of credit favouring Jordanian exporters to $100 million, limiting them to Jordanian-manufactured goods involving a minimum of 40 per cent of local material and value added. The original value of letters of credit exceeded $300 million but consisted largely of reexports by Jordanian merchants. These orders were later declared null and void by the Central Bank and the ministry.

The Central Bank stopped financing Jordanian exports April 16 when it noted that import orders exceeded by far the $185 million ceiling for exports of goods defined by the trade protocol with Iraq. Central Bank Deputy Governor Mahir Shukri said Jordanian exports worth $135 million had already been shipped to Iraq and paid for and that only orders worth $50 million remained pending execution as provided for in the protocol.

It was not clear how the remaining $50 million in letters of credit would be paid after providing for the $50 million remaining within the protocol.

'Abd al-Fattah did not discuss any figures during Saturday's meeting with Jordanian industrialists at the Amman Chamber of Industry, but he stressed that an agreement had been reached with the government to resolve the problem.

Accord Reported on Debt

Unofficial sources told the JORDAN TIMES that an agreement was also reached on arrangements for settling Iraq's outstanding debt to the Jordanian government, currently standing at nearly $600 million. The sources said the Iraqi government had agreed to pay $70 to $80 million by the end of this year. There was no official confirmation.

'Ali al-Husari, who attended Saturday's meeting with 'Abd al-Fattah, quoted the Iraqi official as confirming that the trade problem would be settled in the next two to three weeks, after all banking legalities are taken care of. Al- Husari, financial director for Al-Hikmah Pharmaceuticals Company, expressed appreciation for the Iraqi government's positive response and underlined the importance of the Iraqi market for Jordanian products.

"Safeguarding our future trade with Iraq is in fact much more important to be affected by the recent export problem," [sentence as published] Al-Husari told the JORDAN TIMES. He explained that Iraq's desire to increase bilateral trade was a positive move in the right direction.

"Yaqub Khatib of the Jordan Canning Industries Company said there was a favourable reaction from industrialists to assurances by the Iraqi official during Saturday's meeting.

'Abd al-Fattah arrived in Amman Thursday and held talks with several government officials.

Khatib said the Saturday's one-hour-40-minute meeting discussed all aspects of Jordanian exports to Iraq and ways to boost bilateral trade and cooperation.

'Abd al-Fattah said Thursday the Iraqi government "feels that Jordan's market is an extension of the Iraqi market," reflecting the excellent relations between the two countries.

On Conclusion of Talks

JN2908103088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Aug 88 p 6

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Iraqi Foreign Trade Ministry Undersecretary Qubays 'Abd al-Fattah left Amman for Baghdad Sunday after three days of talks with Jordanian officials, focusing on increasing trade exchange and removing obstacles in the way of a smoother flow of products between the two countries.

'Abd al-Fattah and Industry and Trade Ministry Secretary General Muhammad al-Saqqaf Sunday signed minutes of meetings held in the last three days on ways to boost bilateral trade, the Jordan News Agency, PETRA, reported.

"The two sides expressed satisfaction with the achievements reached in all fields, stressing the importance of enhancing the role of trade centres in both countries," PETRA said.

In the field of industry, the two sides stressed the necessity to continue cooperation in the field of fertiliser industries and extraction of rock phosphates between the Jordan Phosphate Mining Company and the Iraqi Phosphate Company.

Jordan and Iraq also agreed to continue cooperation in the field of energy and to work towards facilitating the flow of crude oil and its derivatives to Jordan.

Disengagement Measures Not To Affect Refugees

JN2908091788 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Amman, 29 Aug (PETRA)—Dr Ahmad Qatanani, director general of the Foreign Ministry Palestinian Affairs Department, returned to Amman from Vienna yesterday after representing Jordan at the UNRWA advisory committee meetings.

He said the Jordanian Government's decision to disengage legal and administrative relations with the West Bank does not affect the services extended to refugees in Jordan.

He said the committee studied a special item explaining the Jordanian Government's changes to the school system and considering the 10th year as obligatory at all schools in the Kingdom. It has been proposed that UNRWA take the necessary measures to cope with the changes and to apply the new system at all UNRWA schools in Jordan in compliance with the development witnessed by the learning process.

He added that it is hoped that UNRWA would take into consideration the refugees' growing needs in all areas of operation, especially in Jordan.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Welcomes Reorganization of Press

JN2808111288 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Aug 88 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "A Step We Awaited"]

[Text] We can say in all certainty and confidence that the government's decision yesterday to dissolve the boards of directors of the companies of the three newspapers and to appoint temporary administrative committees in their place is of special significance. It is, in fact, the beginning of a general reform process in the Jordanian press which the Jordanian press community has awaited for a long time and the dear readers and citizens have felt the urgent need for.

The newspaper plays a basic role in forming the citizen's consciousness and providing him with honest information about what is going on in his country, great Arab homeland, and the world at large. The press is a basic tool for developing, building, and educating society. It is also a means for constructive criticism to point out any negative points in its development process.

Indeed, the press is the fourth authority which seeks to entrench the values of true, sincere citizenship, the supremacy of the law, and the logic of placing the higher public interest above all other considerations. The increasing role of the press in the citizens' life has called for continuous reorganization and development, especially on the leadership, guidance, and editing levels.

The Jordanian press community has received with great satisfaction the decisions of the new temporary administrative committees to appoint well-known, respectable, and experienced persons to the posts of directors general and chief editors. The press community has also received with satisfation and appreciation the government's concern to protect the rights of the shareholders in these establishments, a concern that was demonstrated by including in the new administrative committees several old shareholders to ensure the economic success of the press establishments.

The government's decision was sound in its approach because it emphasized the mission of the press, gave it special attention, and also shouldered it with the major responsibility of being the channel for communicating the guidelines of the national leadership to the citizens, explaining the government's mission and policies, reflecting the citizens' feelings about their society and country and giving priority to these feelings.

Thus, it would become a press with a mission, a press that deserves to be reinforced with competent and experienced elements. At the same time, the government is interested in seeing that these establishments continue to achieve success and profit like all other economic establishments.

Although some major international newspapers like LE MONDE and the TIMES have failed to combine the press' mission with profit making, we are confident that the recent decisions and the persons newly appointed to take charge of our press establishments will succeed where others have failed by presenting Jordan's press mission as it should always be presented—clear and bright and achieving prosperity for our press establishments so they will continue to provide stability and progress for its employees and a rewarding income for its investors.

King Thanked for New Measures

JN3008143388 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Jordanian journalists expressed their appreciation of and satisfaction with the government's recent measures to organize press corporations in Jordan. In a telegram sent to his majesty the king today, the press association board said the new measures have given the national interest, the journalism profession, and journalists themselves a more responsible role. The measures have also given emphasis to the pan-Arab role of the Hashemite Kingdom.

The journalists, describing the measures as wise and fair, noted that the new steps recognized Jordan's pan-Arab function as a driving force behind reconciliation and accord within the Arab nation. Journalists, the board went on to say, have fully understood the significance of the measures which were taken upon royal instructions. The steps are seen as practical and in harmony with the existing sensitive circumstances. The board expressed the deep appreciation of Jordan's journalists for the new measures and thanked his majesty for their adoption.

TIMES Welcomes U.S. Stand on Deportations

JN2808115588 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Aug 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Positive Signals From Washington"]

[Text] It is encouraging to note that Washington's objection to Israel's policy of deporting Palestinians has assumed a louder and more effective form. The U.S. State Department's characterisation of Tel Aviv's most recent decision to expel 25 more Palestinians from their homeland as a threat to the bilateral relations between the two countries that could precipitate a real crisis between them, is a positive development that should be promoted. It is no small measure for the U.S. to threaten that it may oppose Israel at the UN over the expulsion issue.

This marks the first occasion for Washington to use strongly worded criticisms of Israel since President Eisenhower forced Israel to withdraw from Sinai in 1956. What remains to be seen is what additional steps Washington might make against Israel in view of Israel's rejection of the American stand. As usual, Israel is taking the law into its own hands by insisting that its deportation policy is lawful under domestic and international laws. Israel has persisted in its wild and ridiculous allegations about the legality of its deportation policies in spite of the unanimity in international juridical opinion that they constitute blatant violations of international jurisprudence.

May we then expect a stronger American move against Israel should it continue to defy the international community, including, now, the U.S.? We are pleased to note that Washington is entertaining the policy of excluding Israel from the list of countries that enjoy the most favoured trading status with it, over another issue involving Israel's violation of the fundamental rights of Palestinian labourers working in Israel. Bread and butter measures against Israel in addition to the suspension of the supply of arms and military knowhow, are the kind of policies that could force Israel to end its rebellion against international norms and practices over the issues of deportations, labour rights and, indeed, other human, civil and political rights of the Palestinians.

We are pleased so far with Washington's initial strong reaction to Israel's continued defiance of mankind over the rights of the Palestinians; we urge the U.S. to persist in its new attitude, and to translate it into a more coherent and effective policy against Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories.

Hizballah Official: Amal Israeli 'Border Guard'

NC2608144988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] A Hizballah official in Mashgharah today accused the Amal Movement of acting as border guard for Israel in southern Lebanon. Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, commander of Hizballah's military organization in Al-Biqa', has made a speech in which he declared that secret agreements have been concluded between Israel and the Shi'ites in the South. He added that the Amal Movement has formed an army entrusted with establishing a buffer zone between Israel and Lebanon.

Al-Tufayli accused the Amal Movement of interrogating members of the Islamic resistance in the South and assassinating Shaykh 'Ali Kurayyim, a Hizballah leader, on Israeli orders.

Mufti Says Israel To Enter Kasrawan 20 Sep

NC2808170388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Ja'farite Mufti 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan has stated he has information confirming Israel will enter Kasrawan on 20 September to obstruct the constitutional deadline and prevent the functioning of the state. He said that groups loyal to the Iraqi regime and another supporting the Camp David accord are entering the Palestinian camps with forged Lebanese identification papers to sow intrigue in the South. He said: The plot to settle the Palestinians aims at changing our political identity.

Muslim Leader Says U.S. To Carry Out 'Plots'

LD2608222388 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 26, IRNA—Lebanon's new president will be elected by the U.S. and approved by the Zionist regime of Israel, said substitute Friday prayers leader of Beirut, Sayyid 'Ali Fadlallah here Friday.

'Ali Fadlallah, son of Al-'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, said in Friday prayers sermons that the U.S. intends to carry out here plots in Lebanon in a bid to preserve [the] security and stability of the Zionist State of Israel.

Speaking in Imam Reza (AS) mosque, west of Beirut where Lebanese people from various walks of life attended, the Friday prayers leader stressed [the] Islamic resistance mujahidin is the only militant opposition in Lebanon which struggles against the U.S. plots and global arrogance.

Chamber Speaker Departs for Talks in Damascus

NC2708060088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has left for Damascus where he will hold talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and senior Syrian officials.

Al-Huss Comments on Talks with Syrians

NC2908061088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni have returned to Beirut from Damascus.

Al-Huss said the talks in Damascus were instructive, particularly the objective assessment of current developments and the discussion of action to strengthen the national Lebanese stand that will be necessary if Lebanon is to be brought safely to shore.

Al-Huss added: We will keep in touch with the brothers in Syria in order to guarantee the maximum level of cooperation and coordination in confronting the present challenges.

Amal's Dawud Escapes Assassination Attempt

NC2908154988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1544 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Citing security sources, REUTER carried a report from Tyre this evening to the effect that Dawud Dawud, head of the Amal Movement's Executive Committee, escaped an assassination attempt today. The attempt involved a 50-kg TNT device planted in front of his home in (Biryas) village. According to the agency, Dawud's guards defused the device.

More on Rocket Attack Near Syrian Headquarters

NC2808133888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Sources in the Internal Security Forces have stated that a Lebanese lawyer was killed when a rocket hit his apartment located close to the Syrian Arab Forces Headquarters in Al-Ramlah al-Bayda' this morning.

The sources added that the lawyer, Muhammad Husayn al-'Ali, was killed when the rocket hit his apartment, which is located in a building close to the Syrian Arab Forces Headquarters in Al-Ramlah al-Bayda' on the southwestern shore of Beirut.

The rocket, the type of which has not yet been identified by the security forces, was fired from an open field around 1 km from lawyer Al-'Ali's house, in an area where buildings are occupied by Syrian officers and Lebanese politicians and where strict security measures are in force.

2 'Agents' Wounded in Resistance Operation

NC2808170188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] A statement issued by the National Resistance Front today asserts that a group of resistance fighters has carried out an operation against a patrol of the agent militia along the Jibbayn-Tayr Harfa main road, wounding two agents.

Security Incidents Reported in Various Areas

NC2808173188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] The security situation has been shaken sporadically, with scattered and limited explosions in West Beirut, Tripoli, and Tyre. Machinegun fire was opened on Army positions in Suq al-Gharb this evening, and a dynamite stick was thrown near a Syrian position in Jall al-Bahr in Al-Manarah.

A rocket missed its target in West Beirut this morning, hitting the home of lawyer Muhammad Husayn al-'Ali near the Syrian forces command in Al-Ramlah al-Bayda'. He was killed.

A dynamite parcel has exploded near a Syrian position in the Tallat al-Khayyat area, seriously wounding one person.

An explosion rocked the Al-Qubbah area in Tripoli tonight. Those responsible and the results are unkown. The Syrians have laid a security cordon in the area. Another explosion occurred in a depot for gas cylinders and containers in Hayy al-Raml in Tyre at dawn this morning. Reports speak of great property loss but no casualties.

Unidentified persons travelling in a car today fired at Sami Bitar in Al-Nab'ah, wounding him.

1 Killed, 1 Wounded in Mountain Shelling

NC2808192988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Husayn 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Ghani al-Khatuni was killed this evening and Beirut Mayor Shafiq al-Sarduq wounded in the hand as a result of artillery shelling of the Ra's al-Jabal area in 'Alayh by the regime's Army emplacements in the Prins, Al-Khazzanat, and Suq al-Gharb. Several shells fell on nationalist areas in Dahr al-Wahsh. Tension eased a short while ago, but intermittent bursts of fire can be still heard.

'9 February' Claims 26 Aug W. Beirut Explosions

NC2908041788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi forces of the 9 February Organization have claimed responsibility for the three explosions which were targeted against the Syrian occupation forces' centers and roadblocks in Ak-Hamra', Karakul al-Druze, and Al-Tariq al-Jadidah in West Beirut last night.

Resistance Destroys Israeli Vehicle in South

NC2908092888 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] National Resistance men detonated a roadside bomb as a joint Israeli-Lahd militia patrol was passing on the Shihin road this morning. An Israeli M-113 armored personnel carrier was destroyed and its occupants killed or wounded.

A helicopter was seen landing at the scene of the incident and ferrying the casualties to the occupied territories.

'Martyrs' Claim Anti-Syrian Attacks

NC2908112088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] The Beirut Martyrs Battalion has claimed responsibility for firing a rocket last night at an assembly point for the Syrian occupation forces near the Municipal Stadium in West Beirut. The organization has also told Radio Free Lebanon that it detonated an explosive device in the Sabra area of West Beirut against what it described as the agents of the Syrian occupation forces.

Clashes, Israeli Overflights Reported

NC2908190388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] A clash involving the use of machineguns took place in Harat Hurayk in the southern suburb between gunmen from the Amal Movement and Hizballah this evening. Syrian occupation forces intervened and arrested 15 Hizballah members.

In another development, Lebanese Army positions in the Al-Qusur area in Dahr al-Wahsh on the Mountain have come under machinegun and rocket attack from Junblatt's positions on the opposite side.

Meanwhile, clashes involving the use of machineguns or rockets are taking place between the South Lebanese Army and extremist Islamic organization gunmen on the Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir lines.

In the meantime, Israeli warplanes are flying intensively over Sidon and its camps, dropping flares and drawing antiaircraft fire.

Booby-Trapped Car Injures 6 in Shtawrah

NC3008102288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1017 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent, a booby-trapped car exploded in Shtawrah at 1300 today. According to preliminary information, six persons have been injured.

AL-SHIRA' Cited on Arrest of 300 Palestinians

NC2808174588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] The Arabic-language AL-SHIRA' magazine, published in Athens, reports that Syrian authorities have arrested 300 Palestinian inhabitants of camps in Syria over the past few months. The magazine adds that this is part of a campaign of arrests Syrian authorities have been carrying out since the assassination of Palestinian official Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] in Tunis.

AL-SHIRA' declares that those arrested include several members of organizations in the Al-Yarmuk camp in Damascus and the Al-Nayrab camp in Aleppo which are loyal to Yasir 'Arafat.

AL-SHIRA' publishes an appeal by the committee for the defense of Palestinians detained in Syria calling on international and Arab organizations to intervene immediately to secure the release of the detainees.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanon's Al-Husayni, Al-Huss

JN2808124288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] At 1100 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, and Dr Salim al-Huss, Lebanese prime minister. [title as heard]

The talks concerned current developments in Lebanon.

Khaddam Meets With Visitors

JN2808144088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] At 1300 today, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, and Dr Salim al-Huss, Lebanese prime minister [title as heard]. The meeting was attended by Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister; and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The talks concerned various aspects of Lebanese developments.

Lebanon's Qasir Arrives, Makes Statement

JN2808151888 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1423 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Damascus, 28 Aug (SANA)—Victor Qasir, Lebanese minister of economy, trade, and industry, and his accompanying delegation arrived here today at noon. In his arrival statement, Qasir greeted President Hafiz al-Asad and the fraternal Syrian people.

He said: I take this opportunity to greet President Hafiz al-Asad, whom we love and respect. He noted that his visit to Syria is part of the participation in the inauguration of the Damascus International Fair, and that he aims to express the Lebanese people's love for the fraternal Syrian people.

Received by Al-Zu'bi

JN2908195388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1900 hours this evening received Victor Qasir, minister of economy, trade, industry, and oil in fraternal Lebanon, and his accompanying delegation. Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Muhammad al-'Imadi was present at the meeting, where talks centered on means of promoting and strengthening economic and trade cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Al-Zu'bi Receives Turkish State Minister

JN2808143088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received in Damascus at 1300 today Yusuf Ozal, Turkish minister of state for economic affairs [title as heard], and his accompanying delegation. Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, and the Turkish ambassador to Damascus attended the meeting.

Ozal conveyed to the prime minister the greetings of Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal. Al-Zu'bi asked Ozal to convey his greetings and good wishes to Turgut Ozal and the Turkish Government. The talks concerned bilateral economic and trade relations and ways to enhance and promote them in the interest of both friendly peoples and countries.

Al-'Imadi Receives Ozal

JN2808151488 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1412 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Damascus, 28 Aug (SANA)—Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, today received Yusuf Ozal, Turkish minister of state, and his accompanying delegation in the presence of the Turkish ambassador to Damascus. During the meeting, they reviewed economic cooperation and trade exchanges between Syria and Turkey and ways to promote and enhance them.

Al-Zu'bi Receives PDRY's 'Abd al-Samad

JN2508205488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received this evening Comrade 'Umar Muhammad 'Abd al-Samad, member of the Central Committee of the YSP of the PDRY and the Supreme People's Council's Presidium, and chairman of the national command of the popular

defense committee in his country. Comrade Muhammad Ibrahim al-'Ali, commander of the popular army and the PDRY charge d'affaires in Damascus, was also present at the meeting.

Discussions centered on the goals which the pan-Arab struggle ought to achieve through the march of the Arab nation and on entrenching the concepts that deepen the awareness of the Arab masses. They also talked about the PDRY's efforts to achieve economic and social advancement. Comrade 'Abd al-Samad expressed his appreciation of the progress he has witnessed in Syria in building dams and irrigation networks.

Soviet Economic Officials Arrive for Trade Fair

JN2608201888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Damascus—Zurab Chkheidze, deputy chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers; Velikhov, deputy chairman of USSR Chamber of Commerce [title as heard]; and a delegation accompanying them arrived today in Damascus to participate in the opening ceremony of 35th Damascus International Fair.

Chkheidze and Velikhov gave a statement to a SANA correspondent. They said they were pleased to visit friendly Syria. They said they were also pleased to participate in the Damascus International Fair, to review the latest Syrian industry and goods products, and to show the fair's visitors the latest Soviet industry and goods products by exhibiting the products of the Georgian SSR at the Damascus International Fair.

They praised the relations of economic cooperation and trade exchange that exist between Syria and the friendly USSR. They expressed their appreciation of these relations, which are developing continuously. They asserted that the Damascus International Fair plays a distinguished role in developing and strengthening the existing economic and trade cooperation between the two friendly countries. They said that they will hold economic and trade talks with senior economic officials in the country to broaden the horizons of this cooperation and to open new fields of cooperation.

Al-Zu'bi Receives USSR's Mordvinov 28 Aug

JN2808143788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] At 1000 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. The meeting was attended by Khalil Mar'i, assistant minister of state for planning affairs; and the USSR ambassador to Damascus.

Talks during the meeting dealt with economic and trade relations between the two friendly countries and ways to enhance and promote them in the interest of both countries.

Talas Inspects Soviet Warships in Latakia

JN2608190088 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Within the framework of the relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union, a number of Soviet ships paid a cordial visit to Latakia port.

General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, visited these ships accompanied by Gen 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces; the naval forces commander; and a number of Armed Forces senior officers.

When Gen Talas and his companions arrived at the port platform he was received by Comrade Aleksandr Dzasokhov, the Soviet ambassador in Damascus; Rear Admiral Vladimir Yegorov, commander of the group of Soviet ships; and a number of officers. Afterward, the general reviewed the honor guard. He then inspected the cruiser aircraft carrier ("Pako"). He was briefed on its divisions and viewed the weapons and various sophisticated equipment used by this cruiser. The general wished the Soviet sailors a good stay in Syria.

Afterward, the general was seen off with the usual ceremonies which expressed the extent of friendship and mutual respect. The guns of the Soviet ships were fired to salute the general when he left the naval vessel. An honor guard gave him an official salute.

The Syrian flag was hoisted by the Soviet ships in a gesture of greeting, appreciation, and respect for Al-Asad's Syria, which is ready to confront the plots hatched by imperialism and Zionism against the Arab nation and its fateful issues.

USSR, PRC Contacted on Satellite Purchase

JN2708202188 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 26 Aug 88 p 14

[Text] Damascus—Syrian officials are studying the idea of calling for a joint Arab action to confront the military dangers which will be posed by a possible Israeli launching of a surveillance satellite into a low-altitude orbit around the earth.

Despite the fact that the satellite will have limited effect regarding the signals issued or received by radio stations and radars, its real effect will be the monitoring of all military activities carried out by the Arab states.

The necessary circumstances to sufficiently study the efficiency of this satellite have begun to be available. The Syrian officials note that any single Arab state does not have the capability to launch a satellite. Hence, a joint Arab action is required and the preparation for such an

action should be made immediately. Western diplomats say Syrian officials have recently discussed with USSR officials the purchase of a USSR satellite.

However, Moscow's reply has not yet been known. The Syrians have also held similar contacts with China. This may indicate that the Syrians' discussions with the USSR have not succeeded. The USSR only offers to supply its friends with pictures of sensitive targets taken by USSR satellites which are placed in various orbits around the earth.

People's Assembly Speaker Returns From PRC

JN2908161788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Excerpt] This afternoon 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the People's Assembly, returned to Damascus with his delegation following a several-day visit to the PRC. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Holds Talks With Polish Officials

JN2508173288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this afternoon received Jan Majewski, under secretary of state at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr Jabr al-Kafri, chief of the Eastern Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry; and the Polish ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with ways to enhance the existing ties of friendship and cooperation between Syria and Poland. The conferees also reviewed the regional and international situation.

Al-Zu'bi, GDR Official Discuss Cooperation

JN2508205188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 2000 today received Claus-Dieter Gaedt, GDR deputy [foreign] trade minister. Also attending the meeting were Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and Hamid Mir'i, assistant minister of state for planning.

At the outset of the meeting, Gaedt conveyed greetings from GDR Prime Minister Willi Stoph to Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, who thanked him and asked him to pass on his greetings to Stoph. The discussions took up a number of topics related to bilateral cooperation agreements and projects under implementation.

They also discussed how to enhance cooperation in industrial, economic, and commercial fields. The prime minister was also acquainted with the outcome of Gaedt's talks in Damascus, stressing the importance of continuous contacts between Syrian and GDR officials to cement friendship.

Afghanistan

Cease-Fire Declared Until End of Space Flight

LD2908195588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1630 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Speech by President Najibullah on the occasion of the joint Afghan-Soviet space mission in Kabul on 29 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Compatriots, sisters and brothers, faithful Muslim people of Afghanistan. Today all of us are very happy that in the history of our country, which is imbued with successes and heroism, a great and gigantic incident has taken place. Today a heroic son of Afghanistan, Captain 'Abdul Ahad Mohmand flew into space in a Soyuz spacecraft. [passage omitted]

Dear compatriots, I think that space mission and its outcome will have an impact on earth as well. It also pleases God.

Dear compatriots, the participation of an Afghan cosmonaut in this mission shows that the program and policies of the Republic of Afghanistan are designed so that our people can march along the road toward contemporary science and improved living standards, toward progress, civilization, and benefiting from modern technology. This policy is clearly different from the aims of the extremists.

The extremists want our people to return to the backwardness of the Middle Ages. They want to reimpose on the people the ignorance, illiteracy, poverty, backwardness, and unsettled life they endured for hundreds of years. Through their historic experience the Afghan people know what the Republic of Afghanistan wants for them and what the extremists want.

I am completely confident that the shining rays of this space mission will overcome the painful darkness of ignorance. Space is a field of peaceful cooperation. Mankind has flown toward stars on the wings of peace and cooperation. Today's flight calls for peace in the land of Afghanistan.

As the president of the country, I declare the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan shall halt their combat operations until the end of the space flight across the country and that they shall only carry out reciprocal measures as needed for defense.

On the occasion of the Afghan cosmonaut's historic flight, I call on the opposition forces to listen to the call of wisdom and reason and to cease this fratricide. We will remember this, and we will always be proud that 'Abdul Ahad Mohmand and Dawran are sons of the Afghan nation.

I hope that the flight of Afghan cosmonaut will contribute toward the maintenance of peace in the ancient land of Afghanistan, the humane and Islamic policy of national reconciliation, and the prosperity and progress for our nation. Success comes from God.

Rebel Leader Rejects Najibullah's Truce Call

BK2908133988 Hong Kong AFP in English 1312 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 29 (AFP)—The head of the government formed by the Afghan resistance in Pakistan turned down Monday a call by Afghan President Najibullah for a truce to mark a Soviet-Afghan joint space mission, rebel sources said.

Ahmad Shah also rejected Mr. Najibullah's decision to declare areas vacated by Afghan and Soviet troops as neutral peace zones and dismissed speculation that the death of Pakistan President Mohammed Ziaul Haq weakened the rebels.

Mr. Ahmad Shah, prime minister in the government set up by the seven-party rebel alliance based in Peshawar, also said the rebels Saturday captured Charkh town in eastern Logar Province, the pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY reported.

"The war is stepped up with the passage of each day," he said.

Mr. Shah said Afghans "abhorred" the joint space mission "undertaken by the invaders who continue to spill Afghan blood."

A Soyuz TM-6 rocket carrying a Soviet doctor and an Afghan and Soviet cosmonaut blasted off from Soviet Kazakhstan Monday on an eight-day mission to monitor the health of two Soviet cosmonauts in the orbiting MIR spacecraft.

The official Kabul media said the Soyuz cosmonauts would also take photographs of earth that would help map regions endangered by avalanches and locate areas suitable for industrial and agricultural projects.

Mr. Najibullah last week urged the rebels to observe a ceasefire to mark the day in line with his national reconciliation policy launched January 1987.

But Mr. Shah was quoted as saying: "It is ridiculous to see the Afghan astronauts sitting with the Soviet cosmonauts in a joint venture with the Soviet aggressors who invaded Afghanistan and killed over a million people."

"The incident is insignificant for the Afghan nation and the rebel commanders have decided to continue unabated their holy war till the total downfall of the Najibullah clique in Kabul," he added.

Mr. Shah said Mr. Najibullah's neutral-zone scheme was an attempt "to camouflage mujahidin successes and deceive the world."

Mr. Najibullah on the weekend declared the central Bamian Province, which reportedly fell to the rebels last week, as a neutral peace zone.

"Bamian is under the full control of the mujahidin and the regime is reluctant to confess the truth," Mr. Shah said.

He also dismissed as "wishful thinking of our foes" speculation that the death of General Ziaul Haq a plane crash August 17 had weakened the rebels.

"The Afghan jihad (holy war) has reached a stage of invulnerablity and the Afghan mujahidin are in a position to attack their targets anywhere throughout the country," he was quoted as saying by the news agency.

Foreign Minister Attends Conference on Refugees

LD2508212488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil who is in Norway to participate in the international conference on refugees, returnees and displaced persons, attended a reception given by the Norwegian Prime Minister 23 August in honor of the delegations participating in the conference.

Yesterday Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil met with the Mozambican foreign minister. During this meeting our foreign minister a briefing on the situation in the country as well as on the implementation of the Geneva accords and Pakistani violations of those accords.

The Mozambican side expressed its full solidarity with the government and people of Afghanistan and stated that the full implementation of the Geneva accords by the sides concerned is very important to ensuring peace in the region. According to another report, yesterday morning Mr 'Abdul Wakil met with the Ghanaian interior minister and head of that country's delegation. During this meeting talks were held on recent developments in the country.

The Ghanaian side stated that the constructive and flexible policy of the Republic of Afghanistan in signing the Geneva accords has paved the way for lasting peace in Afghanistan and for settling the Afghanistan situation. We hope that the other sides concerned also fulfill their commitments with an understanding of the existing problems and that they will prepare the ground for eliminating tension in the region. The Ghanaian minister added: The recent developments in the Republic of Afghanistan enjoy the profound support of our government and people.

According to another report, the foreign minister of Republic of Afghanistan gave a televised interview on Norwegian television yesterday evening. He spoke about the specific measures taken by the Republic of Afghanistan to end the fratricidal war in the country; the intensification and expansion of interference in the internal affairs of Republic of Afghanistan; the capability of the Army of the Republic of Afghanistan to safeguard Afghan independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and the Republic of Afghanistan's readiness to conduct constructive talks with the opposition.

Meets French, Greek Officials

LD2608084988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 25, BAKHTAR—'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, who is heading an Afghan delegation to the international conference on the returnees refugees and displaced persons in South Africa in Oslo had separate meetings with the heads of the participating delegations there.

'Abdul Wakil, the Afghan foreign minister met with secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece on Tuesday. Similarly, he met with Bernard Kouchnar, French minister of human rights.

'Abdul Wakil informed them about the nature of the provisions of Geneva agreements and repeated violations by Pakistan. The sides stressed that the realisation of Geneva agreements plays a significant role in securing a durable peace in the region.

The Greek and French ministers who are heading their countries' delegations to the conference expressed the support of their governments in helping the implementation of Geneva agreements, particularly in the resettlement of the Afghan refugees.

According to another report, 'Abdul Wakil met there with the UN high commissioner for refugees, Jean-Pierre Hocke. The Afghan foreign minister once again declared the all-sided readiness of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan in providing every kinds of facilities to get the Afghan refugees back home. The UN high commissioner thanked the Afghan Government for its cooperation to the UN team in Kabul. He said that the UN team is shortly going to visit Kabul in order to make a survey for beginning the UN financial assistance in different spheres.

The Afghan foreign minister, 'Abdul Wakil, also made a speech at the conference on Tuesday. Touching on the miserable situation in South Africa, he said that the solution of refugees' question calls for specific measures, the sides' goodwill and UN increasing role for the solution of regional disputes.

The Afghan foreign minister also informed the participating delegations at the conference about the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan and the full readiness of the Government of Afghanistan for the return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland but Pakistan creates serious obstacles on their return home.

'Abdul Wakil, Afghan foreign minister, expressed hope that the new leadership of Pakistan would pay attention in abiding by the provisions of Geneva agreements and in removing the obstacles for the return of refugees to Afghanistan and thus to contribute in securing durable peace in the region.

Returns From European Trip

LD2908184688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil returned home this morning after paying official friendly visits to Hungary, Finland, and Norway.

'Abdul Wakil and his delegation were welcomed at Kabul International Airport by the following: Nationalities Minister Sulayman La'eq, Deputy Foreign Ministers Muhammad Faruq Karmand, and 'Abdul (Ghafar Lakanwal), Foreign Ministry Adviser Sakhi Daneshjo, Soviet Ambassador to Afghanistan Nikolay Grigoryevich Yegorychev, and the Hungarian charge in Kabul.

Reportage on Visit of WPC Head, Delegation

Meet Vice President

LD2608230988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 25, BAKHTAR—Vice-President of the Republic of Afghanistan 'Abdurrahim Hatif met today the World Peace Council delegation led by the WPC secretary general Johannes Pakaslathi.

Likewise the WPC delegation had a meeting with Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, deputy-prime minister of Afghanistan here today.

During the meeting matters related to the realization of the national reconciliation policy and implementation of the Geneva agreements on solution of the situation around Afghanistan were discussed.

According to another report the WPC delegation met here today with some representatives and chieftains of the tribes and nationalities of the country.

Matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meetings.

Meet With Prime Minister

LD2908092988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 28, BAKHTAR—Prime Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, Dr. Muhammad Hasan Sharq met here today World Peace Council delegation led by Johannes Pakaslathi.

During the meeting Prime Minister Dr. Sharq briefed the guest delegation on government's efforts for realization of the national reconciliation policy in the country.

Likewise, 'Abdul Hamid Muhtat, vice-president of the Republic of Afghanistan [title as received] and Sarwar Mangal, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organisation of Afghanistan received seperately here today the World Peace Council Delegation.

During the meetings matters of mutual interests were discussed.

Pakaslathi News Conference

LD2908093288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 28, BAKHTAR—"We have realized in the Republic of Afghanistan that the Geneva agreements, the confident political means of maintenance of peace in Afghanistan, draws day by day the people of Afghanistan towards a real peace," said Johannes Pakaslathi, secretary general of the World Peace Council (WPC) here today in a press conference organized by the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organisation of Afghanistan (PSFOA).

At the conference which was attended by domestic and foreign journalists, the WPC secretary general spoke in detail on results of the WPC delegation's trip to Afghanistan and realization of the national reconciliation policy in the country.

The issue of Afghanistan, WPC secretary general added, will enter a new phase at the WPC having membership of around 140 countries striving for solution of the regional conflicts and a durable world peace, because the constructive and logical policy of the Republic of Afghanistan in respect to the Geneva agreements and realization of the policy of national reconciliation has adopted a constructive and significant role. Thus the WPC decisively supports this humanistic policy of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The secretary general of WPC added: Contrary to the Western propaganda, we have observed that the people of this country spend their life in tranquillity and the policy of national reconciliation takes steps towards victory. Therefore, the Western countries do not reflect

the real social and political news of Afghanistan as they are, so that the world people should not understand well the facts related to Afghanistan.

4 Provincial Headquarters 'Liberated' by Mujahidin
BK2908113388 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have liberated four provincial headquarters in Afghanistan. According to another report, the mujahidin in a course of successful operations in Qandahar Province have liberated Panjwai, Shahwali Kot, Arghestan, Maroof, and Arghandab. Qandahar city is also under siege of mujahidin.

Weapons Discovered in Lowgar Province
LD2808214688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] A number of arms and ammunition belonging to extremist warmongering elements, hidden in the areas around Musahi sub-district in Lowgar Province and which was to be used to disrupt the peaceful life of the people of that region, was discovered and moved away today.

According to a BIA military section report the weapons, which include six anti-vehicle mines made in the United States and eight shells for a Chinese rocket launcher together with its (?homing unit) and some other ammunition, were discovered and removed by our country's security forces with the direct cooperation of the region's inhabitants.

Rebels Killed in Paktia, Baghlan Provinces
LD2808105288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] The BAKHTAR military section in Gardeyz, the capital of Paktia Province, reports that a group of warmongering extremist elements, who had established themselves in Seyyed Karam District, were crushed recently by the Armed Forces.

The report adds that as a result of this operation, which was carried out with the direct participation and cooperation of the local people in Machalghu and Zarrin Kheyl villages, eight warmongers including their leader, Captain Wali, and two Arab advisers were crushed and 12 others seriously injured. During the operation one rocket launcher, one M-12 gun, and one 122mm gun were also destroyed.

According to another report a group of warmongers who tried to disrupt the peaceful life of the people in Baghlan Province, were crushed yesterday by the Armed Forces. During this operation 10 ground-to-ground rockets, 100 rocket launchers, and 10 machine guns along with thousands of rounds of ammunition were captured.

Armed Forces Defend 'National Sovereignty'
LD2708082288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 27 Aug 88

["Commentary on the Strength of Armed Forces"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, Aug 26, BAKHTAR—The results of the activities of the officers and soldiers of the Armed Forces and their strength for defending the national sovereignty of the country and securing peace especially after the return of 50 percent of the Soviet military forces to their country from Afghanistan is the manifestation of the fact that the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan have the power to counter against the people's enemies under any conditions.

The strength of the Armed Forces became quite clear in the Provinces of Konarha, Nangarhar, Parvan, Qandahar, Lowgar, Ghazni, Zabol, Khowst grand district, Vardak, Samangan, Paktia and finally the Konduz Province where the extremists were out to disrupt peace.

Despite the Utopian claims by the extremists and the propaganda made by Western media as if the extremists will be able to occupy any regions from where the Soviet troops withdraw, the Armed Forces inflicted heavy casualties to the extremists wherever they sought to create disruption.

The mopping up operations carried out in the Provinces of Nangarhar, Vardak, Qandahar, Zabol, Konduz and other areas demonstrated that the extremists are not able to resist against the Armed Forces. At present there is no Soviet soldiers in 26 provinces out of 31 but the Afghan Armed Forces have undertaken to defend the country. This proves the fact that Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, on the one hand, are abiding by the provisions of Geneva agreements and on the other hand, the Afghan Armed Forces are able to defend the country independently.

The people of Pakistan, the opposition political parties and the social strata of that country call for the implementation of the provisions of Geneva agreements. The extremists are striving to continue war and bloodshed. There is no doubt that the people of Afghanistan hate the bellicose policy of extremists and firmly believe in the strength of the Armed Forces in the independent performance of their duties.

Briefs

Military Promotions

The Presidency told BAKHTAR that in line with the decree of Esteemed Najibullah, the president of the Republic of Afghanistan, on 23 August, Air Force Day, Doctor of Technical Science Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Sadeq, son of 'Alimardan, and Lt Col of

Aerotechnology Gul Ahmad, son of 'Abdullah, have been promoted to the rank of brigadier general. [Text] [*LD2708032288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Aug 88*]

Children Visit USSR

Kabul, Aug 27, BAKHTAR—Eight hundred Afghan children after one month rest in the Central Asian Soviet Republics returned home on Friday. On the basis of mutual cooperation between the central council of the trade unions of the Republic of Afghanistan and the nation-wide professional unions of the Soviet Union three thousand Afghan children spent one month in the Dushanbe, Surkhandarya Reka, Tashkent and Frunze cities in that republics. Two thousand children from Kabul, Qandahar, Helmand, Nangarhar, Laghman and Parvan Provinces had left Kabul via air and one thousand other via Hairatan [placename as received] and Shir Khan border posts for the Soviet Union. The number of Afghan children who visited the Soviet Union this year was two-fold than that of last year. Upon their arrivals the children were received, at the Kabul International Airport, by the leadership of the trade unions of Afghanistan and their families and relatives. [Text] [*LD2908022288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 28 Aug 88*]

Bangladesh

Army Deployed To Assist in Flood-Hit Areas

BK3008031488 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] The president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces has ordered the deployment of Army to all flood-affected areas of the country to undertake rescue and relief operations. An official handout says that Army contingents have started operations in flood-affected areas.

The overall flood situation in the country has further deteriorated. More areas have been inundated, damaging both property and crops and rendering hundreds of people homeless. The situation in Faridpur, Rajbari, (Agampur), and Saidpur has further aggravated with the continuous rise of water in the rivers Pabda and (Arial). Almost all the upazilas [subdistricts] of these four districts have been affected. The situation in Tangail and Jamalpur Districts has also further deteriorated.

Train communication between Dhaka and Jamalpur was [word indistinct] yesterday, while road communication between Dhaka and Tangail was disrupted since yesterday. Tangail Town itself is now under water. Reports from Pabna and Sirajganj also speak of continued deterioration in the flood situation. Train service between Ishurdi and Sirajganj has been suspended.

The situation in Manikganj and Munshiganj Districts has also aggravated. All the 14 upazilas of these two districts have been affected by the floods. [passage indistinct]

An official handout in Dhaka says about 1 core 72 lakh people of 179 upazilas of 31 districts have so far been affected by the floods since July this year. Flood has so far inundated over 22,000 square km area of the country. (?Since the beginning of) floods, 123 people have so far lost their lives due to [words indistinct] throughout the country.

About 127,000 dwelling houses have been totally damaged and 404,000 houses partially. Standing crops on about (?369,000) hectares have been damaged totally and 293,000 hectares partially. Eight thousand cattle head have (?perished) in the floods. About 1,200 km of roads have been totally damaged and 13,400 km partially. [passage indistinct]

Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed Goes To London

BK3008073188 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed has gone to London. During his stay there, Mr Moudud Ahmed will review the progress of the proposed conference on investment possibilities in Bangladesh. The conference is scheduled to be held in Dhaka in October this year.

Foreign Minister Returns After Visit To China

BK3008072588 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury has returned to Dhaka after a week-long visit to China. Talking to newsmen at the airport last night, Mr Chowdhury said his talks with Chinese leaders will further strengthen bilateral ties. He said he had extensive talks on bilateral relations and regional and international issues of common concern.

India

Minister on Extending Border Fencing to Rajasthan

BK3008090988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] The project of the barbed wire fencing along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab to check infiltration is estimated to cost 16.5 crore rupees. Stating this in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, said the project will not displace families living near the border.

He said the government has also decided to extend the fencing to the Ganganagar District in Rajasthan and proposes to erect fencing in some vulnerable areas on the India-Pakistan border along Jammu and Kashmir to check infiltration.

He said several steps have been initiated in this regard and the deployment of the Border Security Force has been increased.

Replying to a question, the minister told the house that 24 foreign nationals were apprehended while crossing the border in Jammu area in May last. Nine arrested foreign nationals were pushed back by the border police. The arrested persons did not reveal their connections with the field intelligence units of Pakistan.

Over 60 Arrested During Srinagar Muslim Clashes

BK2908165588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1640 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Srinagar, India Aug 29 (AFP)—Police arrested more than 60 people Monday in connection with recent rival Muslim sect fights which left one dead and some 200 injured here, officials said.

Authorities Monday completely lifted a curfew clamped down earlier on several localities affected in the Shi'ite-Sunni riotings last week in Srinagar, which is the summer capital of northern Jammu and Kashmir State.

Police officials said some 67 suspects accused of indulging in arson, looting, and stonethrowing were arrested Monday, bringing the total number booked during nearly one week of strife to 216. They said about 100 of the injured were policemen.

Many of the civilians injured were stabbed in incidents which erupted August 22, ahead of Muharrum, the martyrdom of Prophet Muhammed's grandson Imam Husayn, which is publicly observed by Shi'ites but not by Sunnis.

A spokesman for the Muslim-controlled state government said the curfew was lifted totally throughout Srinagar after a day-long relaxation in the restrictions passed without violence.

For the first time since the disturbances broke out, shops, hotels, restaurants, business establishments, and cinemas reopened Monday. [passage omitted]

8 Assembly Members Withdraw Support From Party

BK2908162588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] In Mizoram, eight MLA's [members of the Legislative Assembly] belonging to the ruling MNF [Mizo National Front] Party have withdrawn their support to the chief minister, Mr Laldenga.

At a news conference in Aijal this evening, they said they have formed a new legislative party under the leadership of Mr (Tang Monzuala). The defecting MLA's said they are withdrawing support because of unavoidable circumstances.

Replying to questions, they said they want an alternative government. They also said that the governor and the speaker of the assembly have been informed about this in writing.

Our Aijal correspondent reports that with the withdrawal of the support by these eight MLA's, the strength of the MNF in the 40-member assembly has been reduced to 17.

'Crisis' Erupts Over Split

BK3008064488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0616 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 30 (AFP)—A crisis has erupted in the tiny northeastern Indian state of Mizoram after eight dissident lawmakers withdrew support for the provincial government and formed a new party, press reports said Tuesday.

The state's ruling Mizo National Front (MNF), a party of former guerrillas which gained power in elections 19 months ago, was reduced to a minority in the state assembly after Monday's action by the rebels, the reports said here.

The MNF headed by Chief Minister Laldenga who led a 20-year insurgency in the state bordering Burma and Bangladesh before making peace with New Delhi, now has the support of only 17 legislators in the 40-member state assembly.

Mizoram is the second state in the strategic northeastern region to face a political crisis in less than a month. The government of Onagaland was dismissed earlier this month after a split in the local unit of the Congress (I), which had gained power after winning state assembly elections eight months ago.

Press reports said the Mizoram rebels, including MNF Vice-President Chawng Zuala [name as received], the secretary and six joint secretaries, formed their own party named Mizo National Front (Democrat) after withdrawing support for Mr Laldenga.

Mr Zuala told reporters in the Mizoram capital Aijal late Monday that the rebellion was triggered by the suspension of two MNF legislators from the party earlier in the day, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (UNI) [as received] news agency said.

The two legislators, Vanlalhruaia and Siamwiana, were suspended by Mr Laldenga without the consent of the party, Mr Zuala was quoted as saying. No grounds were mentioned for their suspension.

The break-away group appealed to the speaker to be recognised as a full-fledged party in the assembly, PTI said.

No comment by Mr Laldenga on Monday's developments was available.

Mizoram, with a predominantly Christian population of about 600,000, was a federally-ruled territory until it became the 23rd state of the Indian Union in 1987 under a peace accord signed between the MNF and the federal government.

The accord led to elections in February 1987 which the MNF won, gaining 25 seats. Many former guerrilla leaders who had fought for an independent Mizoram were voted to the state assembly.

The state had been quiet until Monday's developments, which led Mizoram Congress (I) leader Lalthanhawla to fly here for talks with federal Home Minister Buta Singh.

Security Forces Arrest 20 'Terrorists' in Punjab
BK2908160388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, security forces arrested 20 terrorists since last evening. According to an official spokesman, 10 terrorists were arrested from Amritsar District, 5 in Sangrur, and 5 from Ferozepore following raids in their hideouts. Some harborers of the terrorists have also been arrested.

Six persons have been gunned down by the terrorists in separate incidents since last night. Five persons were shot down in three villages of the Ferozepore District. One person was shot dead in village Harnoli in Ropar District.

5 Shot Dead, Policeman Injured in Amritsar
BK3008033688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, five persons were shot dead and a police constable seriously injured in two separate incidents in Amritsar District last night. According to an official spokesman, terrorists struck in village Derakalan under Ajnala Police Station and fired indiscriminately, killing five persons. The victims belonged to three families. In another incident, terrorists shot at and seriously injured a police constable in village Boo under Harike Police Station.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, yesterday reviewed the law and order situation in Punjab with the governor, Mr S.S. Ray, and his adviser, Mr J.F.Ribeiro. The union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, and senior officials of the Punjab government were also present.

Indigenous Missile Systems Expected in 2 Years
BK2808045288 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, today inaugurated the Advanced Technology Institute of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program in Hyderabad. The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, was present on the occasion.

Two indigenously-produced missile systems for the defense forces are expected to become operational in about 2 years. Many flight trials have already been conducted successfully. The president and the defense minister went round the defense research development laboratory.

The indigenous development of guided missiles was initiated when Mr Venkataraman was the defense minister. The system will provide the country's Army units with modern equipment.

Defense Forces To Receive Radar From Local Firm
BK2808095388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] The first batch of three Indian-made (Dockler) radar named Indira-1 will be handed over shortly to the defense forces by the Bharat Electronics. The chairman of the public sector firm, Captain S.J. Prabhala, told a team of newsmen at Ghaziabad that the sophisticated antenna of the radar has already been successfully tested.

Our correspondent, Seshu Chandrika, who visited the BHEL [Bharat Heavy Electronics Limited] units at Panchkula, Ghaziabad, and Machhlipatnam, reports that the radar is used for detecting low flying objects. The company is also producing digital microwave transmission and a variety of other indigenous hardware for Doordarshan and All India Radio.

Iran

Khomeyni Meets With Government Leaders
LD3008130088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Report on the meeting between President Khamene'i, Prime Minister Musavi, and other officials and Imam Khomeyni on 30 August at his Tehran residence—recorded]

[Text] On the 4th day of Government Week, the members of the Cabinet, together with President Khamene'i, met the imam of the ummah at his Jamaran residence this morning. During this meeting Khamene'i and Prime Minister Musavi presented the imam of the ummah with separate reports in connection with the government's programs.

Then Imam Khomeyni issued some important guidelines to the country's officials regarding the need for the presence of people at the fronts and the appropriate planning reconstruction. We draw your attention to a detailed account of this meeting:

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We thank God for giving us the opportunity to meet with you once again during Government Week and to have the good fortune and blessing of benefiting from Your Excellency's guidance and advice.

We are currently facing some serious tasks in continuing the reconstruction of the country and in resolving the problems which have come about due to the continuation of the war. In this very sensitive and important phase, we need Your Excellency's favors, assistance, and guidance more than ever so that all of the country's servants and government workers will be able to perform their duties in a satisfactory manner.

During the course of the 8-year war, while we were under the economic, political, propaganda, and military pressures of the enemies from all sides, the government's brother servants, relying on God's guidance, performed their duties and used all their abilities. It is certain that during this sensitive time two factors, apart from God's blessing, were responsible for the development of affairs in an acceptable manner.

The first was Your Excellency's support for the country's officials and the second was the people's cooperation and help. We hope at this time we may benefit from God's blessing and from your guidance and advice. God willing, with the people's assistance we will be able to advance along this difficult path which was ahead of us and the Iranian nation, with power and through reliance on God. I have no more to add.

[Musavi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The brother Cabinet ministers consider Government Week the time to restate our allegiance with the message and call of the martyrs; the message of the beloved martyrs Bahonar and Raja'i and all the martyrs of the revolution.

Naturally, this week is also a time to review the actions that are based on the aspirations, objectives, and beliefs which have shaped the Islamic Revolution. Of course, the members of the government have always felt insignificant before the magnificence of the people's work and spirit.

The people have always carried the main burden of the tasks; the oppressed people from various corners of the country take steps that are really amazing. During our visit to Ilam we saw an old woman who had baked her ration of flour, which was to last for 2 months, for the brother fighters. We feel inferior in the face of such a spirit.

We are hopeful that in this week, through the blessing of Your Excellency, the great leader of the revolution, the government will respond to the extensive sacrifices and selflessness of the people and the fighters, God willing.

[Khomeyni] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I thank the government and the Iranian nation who, despite the pressures of war, strongly defended the greatness of Islam and took proper steps until obstacles were overcome.

Today we must talk about certain issues, including the fact that we must not assume that the war has ended. We should assume that we are still at war. This is because our enemy—whether major enemies, such as the United States or the Soviet Union, or their surrogates such as Saddam Husayn and others—are constantly plotting because they oppose Islam and because they can see that Islam has become a major force confronting them in the world today. This is why they are constantly plotting. We must not lose sight of this fact.

The people and the Armed Forces should be ready. Those who should be going to the fronts should do so in order to keep the fronts fully manned. This matter should be pursued; there should be no laxity in this, for the enemy keeps to its plan.

To weaken the people's resolve, some might suggest that the problem is over. But the problem is not over. These people are constantly seeking to do whatever they want, even using other nations or governments. Because they cannot do this, as neither the government nor the nation is on their side, they resort to other secretive methods. We must stay alert.

The fronts must be full. We should consider ourselves as being in a state of war. You have seen that they respect nothing. One day they say war; the next day they describe the war as peace in order to start a battle the following day. For this reason, our nation and our Armed Forces must be prepared. This is one thing.

Another matter concerns reconstruction, an extremely important issue. In the matter of reconstruction, if the nation were to operate as it pleased there would be corruption. If the government were to operate independently, it would not have enough power.

The people should cooperate and bring all their power to bear on this matter, but under government supervision. Which areas we should deal with first and which sectors are secondary is an issue that must be discussed. A committee consisting of state leaders and the prime minister should be established in order to ascertain priorities. The people themselves should be involved, but not to operate of their own accord. The government should give the people the opportunity to take part in these affairs. The people should also allow the government to do what is necessary, to plan and to discuss.

There may be some who would like to disrupt this work of reconstruction, resulting in corruption. Great attention should be paid to this matter. The committee for ascertaining our priorities, composed of state leaders, should exercise supervision over affairs.

But the people should be involved. Now that the war has ended [as heard], the people should have a free hand in matters of trade, but under government supervision. This is in order to avoid importing those corrupt items that used to be imported. The government should allow the people to import items from abroad and engage in trade, but supervision should be exercised to avoid corruption. This is also an important matter which should be carefully considered.

Another matter is that we should be alert to all these things. We should not expect everything to be straightened out immediately. There may be some people, those who oppose us, who would say: Well, the war is over; so do everything quickly.

However, this cannot be done quickly, because for 8 years they been pounding us and destroying our cities. We must persevere so that, God willing, we may be able to do the job within a specified timeframe. The people should not sit around and listen to those who say everything must be straightened out right away. This cannot be done. Greater attention should be paid both to this matter and the issue of preparing for war.

I hope God will support you, as He has done so far. What we have achieved has been done thanks to God's support. We rely entirely upon the most exalted God. Whatever has been done has been His will. It will be the same in the future as well.

We can only do what He wills us to do. You should increase your reliance upon God and your attention to God. We are nothing. He is all there is. As for myself, I pray for you. I wish you all success and health. I wish health and success for the Iranian nation. May God destroy the enemies of Islam. Peace and God's blessings upon you.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Officials Plan Defense Week

LD2908185888 Tehran IRNA in English 1852 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA—Iran believed and stressed from the start that the Iraqi regime imposed the war on the Islamic Republic, and that Baghdad was never sincere in its attitudes, acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces said here today.

On the other hand, said Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Iran with its recent move (acceptance of Resolution 598) proved that it is seriously seeking peace.

The Majlis speaker who received a group of officials in charge of commemorating the "Sacred Defence Week" (Sep 22- 29), said this year the week has assumed more importance and differs from the previous years. Positions and activities of local and foreign opponents of the Islamic Republic should be disclosed for the people during the week, he suggested.

The Sacred Defence Week is held from 22 September, concurrently with the anniversary of the Iraqi regime's aggression on Iran on that day in 1980.

Hashemi-Rasfanjani Assails Mojahedin-e Khalq

LD2908212888 Tehran IRNA in English 2034 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA—The Majlis speaker and the military supremo Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today lashed out at the monafeqin (members of the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] known as monafeqin for their hypocrisy) as traitors and collaborators with enemies of the Islamic Republic.

He said the MKO members were so treacherous that they collaborated with not only the U.S. and the Soviet Union but also with other enemies of the Islamic Republic in order to materialize their sinister plots.

The last one they collaborated with was an enemy (Iraq) that had mobilized all its resources to eliminate the Iranian nation, he regretted.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani made the remarks in his speech at a ceremony marking the 7th martyrdom anniversary of Mohammad 'Ali Rajai'e and Mohammad Javad Bahonar (former president and premier), at Hoseyniyeh-e Ershad here Monday.

The monafeqin have now reached a point that have no option but to cooperate with the Lebanese Phalangists, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said. [sentence as received] He predicted that the MKO grouplet could not even get along with the Phalange group and would eventually take refuge with South Africa or Israel.

The late Rajai'e and Bahonar were martyred when a bomb planted by the MKO ripped through the prime minister's office in Tehran on August 30, 1981.

Iraqi Troops Cross Cease-Fire Line

LD2908183088 Tehran IRNA in English 1824 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA—Iraqi troops in a blatant violation of the U.N.-mediated ceasefire regulations conducted military movements in Mehran region, western Iran, and crossed the line of ceasefire this morning despite Iran's utmost self-restraint.

So far the Islamic Republic has reported to the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) several cases of ceasefire violations on the part of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

Earlier on Sunday, Iraqi troops also shelled a village in western Iran.

Further Reportage on Talks in Geneva

Velayati on Irrelevant Issues

LD2808060488 Tehran IRNA in English 0555 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 28, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Saturday that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar should prevent the raising of issues which are not immediately relevant to his plan for execution of the Security Council Resolution 598.

Velayati who was referring to a slowed-down UN-mediated peace talks between Iran and Iraq said it did not matter if the talks were to drag on for a long time to come, "as long as the Iraqi side should take the talks seriously."

Iraqi Preconditions Assailed

NC2808062088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Telephone report by unidentified correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva—recorded]

[Text] The talks in Geneva between Iran and Iraq, which are being held under the auspices of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, are expected to resume this afternoon following a break of 48 hours. Sources close to the United Nations believe that, in view of the general expectations and the spirit of UN Secretary Council Resolution No 598 and the secretary general's implementation plan, the first step toward implementation will be an announcement of the date on which forces from both sides will withdraw to the recognized international borders.

The withdrawal of forces is the step to be taken immediately following the announcement of the cease-fire, according to the framework of Resolution No 598. However, although 1 week has passed since the cease-fire was implemented, an announcement on troop withdrawals has not yet been made. Sources close to the talks believe that the reason for the UN secretary general's delay in announcing a date is due to the Iraqi delegation's preconditions, which fall outside the framework of Resolution No 598 and the UN secretary general's plan. These sources view the Iraqi delegation's reference to the need to dredge the Arvand River, an issue which, on principle, has no connection with the resolution or the implementation plan, as a kind of precondition which aims to slow down the pace of the implementation of the resolution.

Talks 'Will Not End' Quickly

LD2808165788 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 28, IRNA—Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers Sunday afternoon entered the U.N. headquarters here and separately met the U.N. chief after a day-and-a-half pause in the peace talks.

'Ali Akbar Velayati leading the Iranian delegation arrived at the peace talks venue at 13:55 GMT and immediately went into discussions with Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The Iraqi delegation is led by that country's foreign minister Tariq 'Aziz who also met Perez de Cuellar today.

In response to a reporter's question, Velayati stressed Iran's understanding with the U.N. chief but refused to elaborate on the subject of today's talks.

Iran and Iraq started face-to-face talks last Thursday afternoon chaired by the U.N. secretary general. The two parties are not holding direct talks but through Perez de Cuellar and the atmosphere indicates the negotiations will not end quickly.

Iran accepted the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 on July 18 and a U.N.-brokered ceasefire went into effect on Aug. 20 after almost 8 years of the Iraqi-imposed war.

Iraq 'Stalling' Talks

LD2908120888 Tehran IRNA in English 1200 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 29, IRNA—The talks of the Iranian and Iraqi delegation with the UN secretary general Javier Perez de Cuellar which started Sunday afternoon behind close-doors reportedly still continue.

The prevailing atmosphere was said to be indicative of a slow-down in the process of talks which started at the European headquarters of the UN last Thursday.

News sources here attribute the slow tempo of the talks to Iraq's hindering moves and to its raising of irrelevant issues such as the immediate dredging of the Arvand River.

Meanwhile the Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs Sa'dun Hammadi has said that his government no longer recognizes the 1975 accord as valid.

The statement of the Iraqi official is evidence that the Baghdad regime is stalling the UN sponsored peace talks which aims at ending the 8-year-old Iraq-Iran war.

Velayati Interviewed on Talks

LD2908184488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by an unidentified Tehran radio correspondent in Geneva on 29 August—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Dr Velayati, thank you for your participation. Please tell us is Iraq has seriously begun to obstruct the path of negotiations. Is it also true, as some are saying, that the negotiations are facing problems? If so, how do you view this?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to the listeners and the audience. I must state that before the start of the negotiations under the auspices of the secretary general and in the preliminary meetings with him in New York, the Islamic Republic asked the secretary general to completely clarify the methods he planned to use in the negotiations and his goal in order for results to be achieved.

The goal is to attain peace within the framework of Resolution No 598. The reason we requested the clarification was that we knew of Iraq's reputation for abrogating treaties and of its behavior during its 8 years of aggression against the Islamic Republic. We knew of its abrogation of bilateral treaties and violation of international laws, laws that should be respected by all peoples and all nations.

Iraq's actions following the Islamic Republic's acceptance of the resolution—namely its aggression on our territory again, and its obstructing the establishment of a cease-fire, which Iraq itself proposed in the first round of talks in New York—have ultimately led us to believe that Iraq does not really accept the resolution and the secretary general's executive plan.

It has led us to believe that Iraq was forced to accede to a cease-fire due to international pressure in the first round of talks in New York, to our fighters' efforts at the ronts, and to political activities.

[Correspondent] Mr Velayati, the question now is whether or not the negotiation process, its beginning and its developments, has proceeded properly?

[Velayati] The next point, which should have certainly received attention, was to adopt a proper method for continuing discussions. Therefore, from the beginning, we insisted this be clarified. The secretary general, as the person appointed by the Security Council to carry out this task, was dutybound to clarify this procedure.

[Correspondent] You mentioned the secretary general's role. Please describe the UN secretary general's position on the ongoing negotiation process.

[Velayati] We sought the secretary general's opinion, and we were informed that this procedure, as he had previously emphasized, was to finalize the scheduled timetable for the beginning and the end of the implementation of each clause of the resolution, except for the cease-fire.

In this way, the resolution would be fully implemented in an acceptable and planned timeframe and a comprehensive, just, and honorable peace would be established on the basis of the (?provisions) of Resolution No 598. We have approved this procedure and will continue to do so. This was to have been the procedure.

However, from the first round of the negotiations we realized that Iraq was pursuing aims and objectives which either were beyond the purview of the Resolution, or were really attempts to change the order of the Resolution's (?provisions) and were ultimately aimed at obstructing the negotiations.

[Correspondent] So far, the mass media have said very little about the Iraqi delegation's position. In view of the fact that you have given several interviews and released several statements, the Islamic Republic's position is quite clear to the reporters, whereas the Iraqi delegation has been almost totally silent. Could you please tell us something about the Iraqi delegation's positiom in the talks?

[Velayati] As I mentioned, our understanding is that Iraq's objective in raising unnecessary or irrelevant issues is to disrupt the talks.

These include the raising of the Shatt al-'Arab dredging issue, which Iraq insists should be carried out immediately after the cease-fire. We told the secretary general that we are not opposed to this in principle and that dredging can go ahead at the appropriate time based on existing regulations.

In view of the fact that the Shatt al-'Arab or the Arvand River is a common river between Iran and Iraq, on the basis of Clause 6 of the 3d protocol of the 1975 agreement, the two sides can carry out dredging. Each side, each country, dredges its own side. The border line in Shatt al-'Arab is the thalweg. However, this is not the time to discuss dredging.

According to the provisions of Resolution No 598, the withdrawal of the forces should start immediately after the cease-fire. Whereas today, 15 days after the implementation of cease-fire along our borders with Iraq, the Iraqis have not yet begun to retreat.

[Correspondent] What was your response vis-a-vis the positions adopted by the Iraqi delegation?

[Velayati] We explicitly explained to the secretary general that Iraq is in fact trying to divert the course of the talks from the legal and original path determined by the Security Council and the secretary general's implementation plan.

Raising the issue of dredging the Shatt al-'Arab before schedule is, in fact, an attempt by Iraq to cover up its objectives—that is, Iraq's aggressive aims, which it pursued in starting the war.

Iraq then thought that it would realize its sinister intentions within few weeks. However, 8 years of Iran's heroic defense demonstrated that Iraq's dream was futile and that Iran will never be prepared to give up its rights.

Iraq's objective in raising such an issue is in fact a repetition of their baseless and false claims. Its aim is to undermine the 1975 agreement. For our part, we have emphasized, both in our talks with the secretary general and during the many interviews with the mass media, that the 1975 agreement is a border treaty between the two countries.

It is a comprehensive border treaty signed between the two countries. It was endorsed by the two countries' parliaments when it was released. It has been registered in the UN, and in view of the international regulations, this agreement is valid. This agreement cannot lose its validity through its unilateral abrogation by either country. We have, therefore, firmly followed this agreement.

[Correspondent] This is my last question, Dr Velayati. Could you please explain to the listeners how you see the future of the talks and in what direction these talks are moving?

[Velayati] As far as the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned, on the basis of our accepted, principled criteria, we will pursue the talks under the auspices of the UN secretary general. I declared in one of the interviews that we have three criteria, three essential principles in our talks. The first one is the 1975 agreement, the second is UN Resolution No 598, and the third is the secretary general's implementation plan.

As long as the talks continue within the framework of these principles, which we cannot abandon, we will continue our talks and our sincere cooperation with the secretary general.

Of course, as explained above, it is clear that Iraq is pursuing some other objectives. We hope that the secretary general, the Security Council, and the international community can put a stop to this deviating course that the Iraqi delegation is pursuing. We hope that they will guide or, in fact, force the Iraqis to return to the correct path, which is acceptable to the international community and is based on right and justice.

[Correspondent] Thank you, and may God be with you all.

Velayati on Shatt al-'Arab

PM3008113088 Paris LE MONDE in French 30 Aug 88 p 4

["J.G." report: "Quest for Settlement Between Iran and Iraq: Shatt al-'Arab Problem Blocks Progress in Geneva Negotiations"]

[Text] Saturday's "pause for reflection" has not resolved matters. The Iran-Iraq negotiations in Geneva resumed in a tense climate Sunday 28 August when Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Mansuri accused Iraq of "sabotaging" the talks by claiming sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab waterway. Thus the talks "could drag on for years," he added.

Recalling the background to the discussions, Mansuri reaffirmed that the 1975 Algiers treaty defining the border between the two countries remains valid and that, by signing that document, Iraq accepted the border's location along the middle of the river in exchange for an Iranian pledge to end all support for the Iraqi Kurdish rebels.

This statement conflicts with that made on Baghdad radio by the former Iraqi negotiator of the Algiers accord, Sa'dun Hammadi, currently secretary of state for foreign affairs, who said that the Algiers treaty that set the Iran-Iraq border along the line of deepest water of the Shatt al-'Arab "no longer exists."

According to Hammadi, "Iran clearly violated this accord" 8 years ago by "interfering in Iraq's internal affairs" and "threatening its security" by refusing to return certain Iraqi territories occupied under the shah, "which forced Iraq to annul this agreement" on 17 September 1980, 5 days before Iraqi troops entered Iran.

In an apparent response to Hammadi, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in Geneva Sunday that the Algiers Accord cannot be unilaterally challenged by Baghdad. Citing Article 5 of the accord, he said that the document "cannot be annulled by a unilateral decision by either side." Article 5 of the treaty states that the "line of the land and river borders" established by the accord "is inviolable, permanent, and final."

Furthermore, Article 6 states that in the event of a dispute disagreements must be resolved through bilateral negotiations, the good offices of a friendly third power, or the arbitrage of the International Court of Justice.

Saturday evening Velayati said in an interview broadcast by Antenne 2 that Iraq was trying "to put forward new preconditions for the peace plan envisaged by the United Nations and now talking about dredging the Shatt al-'Arab waterway."

"We are not opposed to dredging the river, which is envisaged by Section 6 of the third protocol to the Algiers treaty," he said, adding: "Now, however, we

must talk about the withdrawal of troops to within international recognized borders; then, the exchange of prisoners of war; and, last, in due course, we will talk about dredging the Shatt al-'Arab."

He stressed that Resolution No 598 envisages that following the cease-fire, the withdrawal of both sides' forces should take place without delay. "This is the letter and the spirit of Resolution No 598," he said.

This is apparently what was meant by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, who said in Geneva Sunday that he was disappointed by the delay in the withdrawal—envisaged by Resolution No 598—of Iranian and Iraqi troops to within international borders. "What disappoints me," he said late Sunday evening as he left the Palais des Nations, where the negotiations are being conducted, "is that we cannot begin the troop withdrawal in line with Article 1 of Resolution No 598."

This article envisages, among other things, an immediate cease-fire and a withdrawal "right away of all forces to within internationally recognized borders." He added: "We are confronted with an unexpected difficulty in connection with implementation of Article 1 of Resolution No 598, and the time limit that I envisaged has not been accepted by the two sides," he said, without further explanation.

5 Permanent Members of UN Meet

NC3008052788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Telephone report by unidentified correspondent in Geneva—recorded]

[Text] On the sidelines of the Geneva talks and during the 24 hours after the last interruption of these talks, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar held behind-the-scenes meetings with ambassadors of the permanent Security Council members all day yesterday.

It is said that during these meetings the UN secretary general sought to brief the five permanent members of the Security Council on the latest situation in the talks. A reliable report indicates that the ambassadors of the five permanent Security Council members told the secretary general of their serious opposition to any kind of precondition being laid down for the implementation of Resolution No 598. In view of this stand by the permanent members of the Security Council, the Baghdad delegation is expected gradually to come under pressure to stop obstructing the talks.

In his latest interviews, the UN secretary general has earnestly pointed to the need for the forces to withdraw behind international borders, describing this as a vital issue in the implementation of the resolution. Apparently, without being ready to express an overt stand, the Security Council is extremely concerned about the slow pace of the talks and the absence of progress in the implementation of the resolution.

This is the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva.

UN Head Sees No Progress

LD3008102888 Kuwait KUNA in English 0923 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug 30 (KUNA)—The negotiations over the implementation of Resolution 598 had not yet progressed beyond the first part of the first section, United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Tuesday morning.

On entering the United Nations building for the sixth day of Gulf war peace negotiations he told journalists "We are trying to clear the first part of part one... on an immediate ceasefire and a withdrawal without delay... the ceasefire at sea is part of the problem."

Point one of the resolution reads as follows: "As a first step towards a negotiated settlement, Iran and Iraq observe an immedate ceasefire, discontinue all military actions on land, at sea and in the air, and withdraw all forces to the internationally recognized boundaries without delay."

Yesterday Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has said that there had been no discussion so far on the implementation of the rest of 598 as no agreement had yet been reached on what the ceasefire applied to.

Until Iran agreed that the ceasefire extended across all Gulf waters, thus enabling Iraqi shipping access to the country's ports, then it would not be possible to advance the negotiations to the other points such as prisoners of war and the question of responsibility for the conflict, Iraq's foreign minister said.

"It is a very difficult problem", and it cannot be expected that this will be resolved in a few days, the secretary-general said this morning.

"You all think that everything is the Shatt al-'Arab, this is not quite true, this is one of the difficulties we are facing, and not the only one", Perez de Cuellar commented.

Asked whether he would be seeing the Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers in a plenary session today he replied "If they want it, if there is a reason to meet them at the same time I will meet them."

In the talks so far the ministers had not spoken directly to each other. "It is a triangle, they talk to me and I talk to the other side", he noted.

There has been no face-to-face meeting between the two delegations since Friday, but U.N. officials continue to insist that the talks are not deadlocked.

United Nations political, military and "technical experts" have been meeting since Saturday to discuss the implementation of the resolution, but they have had only limited contact with the two Gulf war delegations.

Yesterday Perez de Cuellar received the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the Security Council—the U.S., the Soviet Union, Britain, China and France—to discuss what had been happening in the talks.

Iraq 'Hindering' Process

LD3008121188 Tehran IRNA in English 1158 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA—Since the start of the UN-sponsored peace talks in the European headquarters of the UN in Geneva last Thursday, the Iraqi regime has been raising various issues invariably aimed at hindering the process of the talks.

The excuses which are all unjustifiable and irrational from the point of view of both international law and traditions include Iraq's claim that the 1975 accord between Iraq and Iran is invalid.

Iraq supports its claim by stating that:
A. It has no other waterway than the Arvand River and this makes the river of major importance for Iraq's sovereignty.
B. The 1975 agreement was imposed on Iraq.
C. The attitude of Iranians has made Iraq consider the accord as "useless" and "ineffective". Iraq now insists on a new agreement with Iran.

The answer to these points are very clear. First of all there exist many countries which have no waterway and are landlocked such as the case of many African countries and Afghanistan. Therefore, having no access to a waterway is no reason for the Iraqi Government to dream of oceans, seas and lakes.

As for the imposition of the accord on Iraq in 1975, the document has envisaged that within two months after its conclusion upon request of any parties any disputes should be resolved through negotiations. Furtheremore Articles 4 and 6 of the accord stress that it is permanent, final and inviolable.

As for "Iran's attitude" which Iraq describes it as an intervention in its domestic affairs, even if such a claim be proved it does not provide an excuse for Iraq's unilateral breach of the accord.

The document has made it clear in its Article 5 that the land and water borders of the two countries are already established unchangeable, permanent and final and this has been signed by both Iraq and Iran. The accord has provided for direct talks, and for referring to an arbitrator in case any dispute over the issue should arise.

If the 1975 accord between Iran and Iraq could so easily and unilaterally be abrogated, then the same should hold true for the 1926 Iraq-Turkey agreement.

Based on such illogical claims Iraqi officials such as Sa'dun Hammadi have been calling for a new agreement. This is raised while the UN Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran war has made no such provisions and has called for the return of forces of the two countries to international borders.

All those aware of the dictates of international law know well that the 1975 accord substitutes all previous agreements between the two countries.

The Baghdad government by raising such excuses aims at procrastinating the talks and delaying its progress through it can hardly hope for preventing the formation of an impartial committee to identify the party responsible for the start of the war.

'Rumors' Say Velayati May Leave

LD2908154288 Kuwait KUNA in English 1404 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug 29 (KUNA)—Iran's foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was rumoured Monday to be considering leaving Geneva and the talks with Iraq within the next 24 hours unless negotiations moved forward in the direction he wanted, sources said Monday.

Other sources, however, said that Velayati had no immediate plans to leave Geneva. A decision on his departure would be made this evening and would depend on what developments there had been over the course of the day, they said.

There have been no face-to-face negotiations between the two sides since last Friday, and intensive indirect consultations have failed to break a deadlock over implementation of Point One of Resolution 598. This calls for a ceasefire, a discontinuation of all military actions on land, sea and air and a withdrawal of all forces to internationally-recognised borders.

U.N. spokesman Francois Giuliani Monday morning said that technical experts from the two delegations and the United Nations were this morning "trying to bridge the gap over the implementation of Point One in all its aspects".

No meeting between Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati had been confirmed for today, the spokesman added.

Kurds Stage Demonstration

LD2608204488 Tehran IRNA in English 1832 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 26, IRNA—About 200 Kurds rallied here today carrying pictures depicting bodies of civilian Kurds killed due to exposure to chemical weapons in the Iraqi town Halabjah on March 1, 1988.

Iraqi Air Force dropped chemical bombs on Halabjah, Iraq's Al-Sulaymaniyah Province on March 18, killing at least 5,000 women, children and men and injuring at least 7,000 others.

Since the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war, the Iraqi Government has stepped up suppression of Kurds, a powerful militant opposition which has fostered deep-seated enmity with the Ba'thist government in that country.

Iraq Planning 'Total Extermination' of Kurds

LD3008085988 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] London, Aug. 30, IRNA—Iraqi government forces have used conventional firearms as well as chemical weapons in their attacks on Kurds along Iraqi-Turkey borders this month according to a Central Committee member of the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party.

The KDP member Hoshiyar Zubari said in a telephone interview Sunday that as long as the official suppression of Kurds continues in Iraq, they will not sit for negotiation with the central government in that country.

He said about 3,500 Kurds have been killed or injured in clashes with the government forces this month, and other sources say some 150,000 civilian Kurds are stranded in the embattled areas of Irbil, Dahuk and Shaykhan while Turkey, on the other hand, prevents their entry on the Turkish soil.

Zubari said that the Kurdish refugees live under adverse conditions and since they are geographically far from the Iranian territory they can only flee to Turkey for safety. The International Red Cross has also expressed concern over the status of the Kurds and has promised to investigate the possibility of sending aids to the stranded Kurds.

He said the problem is that neither the Iraqi nor the Turkish Government is willing to cooperate with the International Red Cross. He added the behavior of the Iraqi Government with the Kurds in Iraq is part of a plan for their total extermination.

According to Zubari heaviest clashes now continue in Sayyid Khan near the Iranian cities of Piranshahr and Oshnoviyeh. He said because of on-going fighting between Iraqi Government forces and the Kurds the Baghdad Government prevents the forces of the U.N. military observer group for monitoring the current ceasefire between Iran and Iraq to go to the northern fronts.

He said the Baghdad government is making it hard for the Kurds mainly because the Kurds have friendly feelings towards the people and government of Iran.

Zubari said the Iraqi Government is not really interested in negotiation with the Kurds, but that it has suggested the idea simply to find out whether they are willing to consider talks with the central government.

Kurdish Party Reports Iraqi Chemical Attack

LD2808055388 Tehran IRNA in English 0540 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] London, August 28, IRNA—A spokesman of the Kurdish Democratic Party said here Friday that six Iraqi aircraft had dropped chemical bombs on five villages in Dahuk Province of Iraq, and on another five villages in Irbil Province on August 25.

He said in Dahuk Province as many as 88 civilians had been killed and 500 injured mainly women and children with losses to the livestock of villagers.

The attacked villages, according to a press release by the KDP, were Borgeen and Zerahwa in Zakhu, and Ekmala and Bergara in 'Amadiyah, and Khalie, Ware, Heran, Nazenien and Balisan [all placenames as received] in Irbil Province.

The Kurdish party said in the press release that the Kurds of Iraq are unprotected against military suppression by the Iraqi Government and chemical attacks and called on the UN and the international societies to offer assistance to the victims of chemical attacks in Iraq.

Besharati on Importance of 1975 Accord for Talks

LD2908145988 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA—The 1975 accord is the best criterion for determining the Iran-Iraq borders, said Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here today. Without this accord any peace talks would be meaningless, he added.

Besharati made the remarks in a meeting with Irish charge d'affaires here Purcell O'Byrne, where he added that Iran accepted U.N. Resolution 598 (July 18), and will employ all its might to fully implement its articles without accepting any pre-conditions.

O'Byrne also stressed expansion of Tehran-Dublin mutual ties and expressed hope the Geneva talks would end successfully.

Mansuri Describes Iraq as 'Politically Bankrupt'
LD2808105788 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry deputy for Asia and Oceania Javad Mansuri said here Sunday that the Iraqi regime continues to have designs on Iran's territorial integrity. He said, however, that the Iraqi Government will not live to witness the materialization of its ambitions, and reminded that the 1975 accord between Iraq and Iran is and will remain valid.

He said with a huge foreign debt considerably higher than the officially acknowledged 80 billion dollars and a chaotic situation at home the Iraqi Government is politically bankrupt. He commented that the Iraqi delegation is undermining the Geneva talks by bringing up irrelevant and objectionable topics such as Iraq's claims for sovereignty on the Arvand River between the two countries simply because the Iraqi delegation knows that the days of the current political system in Iraq are numbered.

Mansuri commented that based on its slow tempo so far, the Geneva talks may drag on for years to come. He said whatever should happen the losing party will be the Iraqi Government and not Iran, and stressed that the UN Security Council's Resolution 598 provides a perfect ground for repatriation of prisoners of war. Elsewhere he reiterated that Iran's demand for formation of a committee in charge of the identification of the aggressor party is indispenable.

Kuwaiti Paper Says Arab Prisoners Total 500
JN2603105288 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 24 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Informed sources in Baghdad have stated that the number of Arab and Egyptian prisoners in Iran as reported by some papers and media organs has been greatly exaggerated.

These sources said that the number of Arab prisoners does not exceed 500 with no more than 100 Egyptians among them.

These prisoners are among the Arab workers who had been employed in some Iraqi border areas where Iran succeeded in obtaining a foothold during some battles of the Iraq-Iran war.

IRNA Notes Purge in Mojahedin-e Khalq
LD2808194288 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA—Following its ignominious defeat in the Mersad (ambuscade) operations last month the terrorist grouplet Monafeqin (hypocrites) Khalq Organization (MKO) [Mojahedin-e Khalq] has started an intensive organization purge, announced an informed source at the Information Ministry here Sunday.

The source said, based on monitored radio reports, obtained documents and confessions of several anti-revolutionaries who were either captured or surrendered themselves during Mersad operations, the MKO terrorists have killed all those members who after their thrashing defeat at the hands of Muslim combatants posed a threat to the grouplet's very existence.

Several top terrorists who had disagreed with their head on the futility of a joint Monafeqin-Ba'thist aggression against the Islamic Republic, have been executed by ringleader Rajavi for he considered them as a danger for himself and the remnants of his gang, added the source.

Among those eliminated during the recent bloody purge, were some notorious gangsters who could well challenge the Monafeqin's head for the terrorist clique's leadership, said the source adding that their names will be announced shortly.

Following their military-political defeat in spite of their collaboration with the Ba'thist invader, new facts about the real nature of the hypocrites are coming to light, he said.

The source disclosed that MKO terrorists are in contact with Lebanon's Phalangists and have offered their services and experience in espionage and sabotage, in return for being allowed to settle in Lebanon, said the source.

The grouplet has sent several anti-revolutionaries to Lebanon for holding talks with the Christian militia on the issue, but the latter have not yet formally replied despite their general assent.

Oil Minister Briefs Cabinet on Ankara Trip
LD2808204688 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh reported to the Cabinet on his recent trip to Turkey and the agreements concluded there, during today's session chaired by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi.

In his report, Aqazadeh described the agreements concluded with Turkish officials for joint cooperation in export of gas and petro-chemicals and setting up of a power station in eastern Turkey as "beneficial".

The session stressed reconstruction of war-ravaged areas and approved funds for rehabilitation of several areas damaged by natural disasters such as flood-hit Damavand town and Mamasani in Fars Province which was rocked by several earthquakes.

More than 300 quakes have shaken Mamasani in recent days, the most intensive of which measuring 6.2 degrees on the Richter scale occured on August 11. Over 2,000 houses were destroyed as a result of the quakes although only one person was killed.

Floods struck Damavand 60 kms northeast of the capital on Wednesday and Thursday destroying several houses and rendering many townspeople homeless.

Construction Jihad To Stress Rural Development
LD2708200388 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA—Construction Jihad (CJ) has provided drinking water for 64 percent of the country's total rural population, rural roads for 55 percent and electricity for 66 percent of the population until early 1988, a high ranking official said here today.

Rasul Lahijanian, currently in charge of the Construction Jihad Ministry, noted that before the victory of the Islamic Revolution (1979) only 20 percent of the rural population enjoyed the afore-said facilities.

Speaking on the first day of Government Week (Aug. 27-Sept. 2), Lahijanian said that his ministry has also executed 3,100 small water irrigation projects throughout the country over the above-mentioned period. The increase in domestic wheat yields produced through dry farming method hit a record 800,000 tons in 1987 from 500,000 tons in 1986 and 150,000 in 1985, he said.

On the activities of the fisheries which operates under the supervision of the Construction Jihad, he said that a total of 194,000 tons of fish was caught last year, up by 28 percent compared to the previous year's figure.

Lahijanian said that over the next five years CJ's most important plans include: raising production of wheat through dry farming to 2 millions tons, providing 5 cubic meters of irrigation water, increase in domestic production of meat by 250,000 tons through improving animal breeding and feeding, production of 8 million tons of fodder and one fourth of the domestic eggs and meat consumption.

Minister Zali Discusses Agricultural Situation
LD2708225388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Today is the first day of Government Week and is Government and Agriculture Day. On this occasion, Minister of Agriculture 'Abbas 'Ali Zali met with reporters and analyzed issues relating to the country's agriculture. We continue the news reports with the remarks of the minister of agriculture:

According to the Central News Unit correspondent, Mr Zali noted some general points about the activities of that ministry and said: The agricultural section has been the only section which has been able to maintain its growth since the victory of the Islamic Revolution. In this connection, essential and general projects are in their final stages and research projects have increased in number from 600 to 1,300-1,500 projects per year.

He said: The Third World countries contain two-thirds of the world's population and only meet 60 percent of their own food needs, but Iran is currently meeting 75 percent of its food needs. Through fundamental development and with heavy investment, we must speed up the attainment of self- sufficiency. Within the next 10 years the country's wheat production must reach 14 million tonnes, rice 2.2 million tonnes, and meat and dairy production must double current levels. In the current circumstances, 10 years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, less than 50 percent of arable land and water resources are currently being used on a national level.

Zali added that 64 percent of the land which must used for agriculture, 55 percent of the water useable for irrigation, 63 percent of natural resources, 75 percent of the potential of farmland, and 80-85 percent of the fisheries and marine resources are still not being used. If production does not reach the level necessary for domestic consumption, $4 to $5 billion in foreign exchange will have to be devoted to the purchase of food products.

With regard to Khuzestan Province's capacity for food and livestock production, the agriculture minister said: That province has 1.55 million hectares of the arable land and the necessary water, but unfortunately only 985,000 hectares are being cultivated using crude techniques; and half of this area depends on rainfall.

As for other factors behind the drop in production, he mentioned the lack of equipment and tools for farmers; the disparity between the set prices and the realities of production, and short-term planning. He noted: Bearing in mind the growth of the country's population, which by 1998 will reach 72 to 75 million people, correct planning and policies are necessary. Provisions and tools for 4.5 [number as heard] rural families, who are the real producers, must be provided on time.

In conclusion, the agriculture minister discussed the issue of unused land: According to the decisions of the Committee for Judging Interests [hey'at-e tashkhis maslehat], people who leave farmland unfarmed for 5 years or more without a legitimate reason will have to relinquish the land. It will be turned over to other interested people. If there is a legitimate reason for leaving land fallow, an extra year will be given to the owners to use and develop it.

First National Agricultural Census Begins
LD2708195888 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA—The first-ever nationwide agricultural data collection commenced work Saturday, announced head of Iran's Statistics Center Majid Jamshidi here today.

Jamshidi said the agricultural data will be collected in 496 cities and in over 100,000 villages, 60,000 of which have permanent residents and the rest seasonal migrants.

The need for compiling statistics is because of the importance the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches to agriculture, he noted.

According to available figures, he added, some 30 per cent of the country's total jobs are in the agricultural sector. Of the 11 million Iranians employed in 1365 (1986- 87), over 3,300,000 were working in the agricultural sector, he said.

The official said there are 15 million hectares of cultivated land in Iran, of which 28 per cent is farmed by the irrigation network, 40 percent by the dry farming method and the rest is fallow.

Provincial plan and budget orgaizations are responsible for agricultural data collection, Jamshidi said adding all state organs are duty-bound to cooperate on the issue according to the president's order.

The results are likely to be published by the end of the 1368 (March 1990), he concluded.

Commentary on Significance of Agriculture
NC2708081088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Today marks the beginning of Government Week. [passage omitted] The first day of Government Week has been named Government and Agriculture. [passage omitted]

Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, a review of the neocolonialist policies and, more importantly, a study of the country's potentials and its social-economic fabric were undertaken in view of the economic trends which existed during the Pahlavi regime. As a result of these studies, the development of agriculture was chosen to be the pivot of the country's economic development. [passage omitted]

It is true that the growth in the industrial sector far exceeds that attained in the agricultural sector. However, relying on industry to achieve development in Third World countries results in a growth which in the main actually ignores development and, as a result, leads to food shortages, the absence of social balance, strong class divisions, and the destruction of the agricultural sector.

Some countries in the world have paid attention to industrial growth as the path to economic development with the help of foreign capital. Even though these countries have been able to achieve solid industrial growth, they, nevertheless, have encountered a great number of unfavorable phenomena and social-economic ills.

Paying attention to agricultural growth can play a special role in fulfilling development and social justice in the country. Presently, 46 percent of the total population of the country is living in rural areas under conditions of relative deprivation. Naturally, when paying attention to the agricultural sector, rural development should be borne in mind. Thus, many of the problems confronting villages and the rural population can be overcome.

Of course, paying attention to the agricultural sector does not mean being inattentive toward industry and toward cities. The growth of industry in a country which places its development potential on agriculture should gain significance within the context of the development and growth of agriculture. [passage omitted]

In the past, the vast support enjoyed by agriculture has been primarily in the form of slogans, and only in a limited way through actual deeds. Thus, even though the value added growth of the agricultural sector has been positive each year, this growth, neverthless, has never been favorable in view of the country's total policy.

The difficulties arising from this situation are still numerous, and we will list only a few of them here. The first problem is that the growth rate of the agricultural sector was determined at a time when all the potentials and even policies were serving the industrial sector.

Economic dualism and, as a result, the lack of equilibrium in the country could be the consequence of a policy which pays more attention to the industrial sector at the expense of agriculture. In the past, industry—that is, the dependent industry of assembly plants—has generated the most foreign exchange income.

Even though agricultural development is considered to be the pivot for development, this objective can be fulfilled only when everything is directed toward agriculture. Industrial growth on its own cannot come to the assistance of agriculture. As we said, industry should be viewed within the context and in the service of agriculture.

The second point is that we did not have a standardized program in relation with agriculture—a program precisely defining a definite annual growth, the extent of required credits, and so on. Even within the context of the executive sphere, there was no full coordination between the relative organs in the agricultural sector.

The existence of other difficulties, such as legal problems pertaining to the ownership of agricultural land, which leads to a drop in investment in this sector, as well as the insufficiency of agricultural credits, the absence of welfare and health facilities in villages, and water and many other problems, have practically obstructed the principled development of agriculture during the past few

years. These problems, together with some other incorrect policies as well as the situation of the domestic economy, occasionally resulted in an increased rate of emigration from the villages to cities.

Of course, we should bear in mind that most of the plots by world arrogance—such as economic pressure, the war, and so on—have had direct or indirect negative impacts on agricultural development.

Some observers believe that the absence of a favorable growth rate in the agricultural sector primarly is due to the fact that economic development cannot bear fruit without rural development. In other words, agricultural development forms part of rural development, in which the objective is to improve the welfare and health facilities in villages, to create a balance between rural and urban incomes, to create the possibilities for better farming methods, and so on. In light of this, we should seek agricultural growth while compiling and implementing a precise program for rural development.

There are some noteworthy points in this regard. Domestic potential should be relied upon with regard to rural development. One should not expect to achieve definite results in a short time. In addition, rural development should be comprehensive and expanded.

An assessment should be made of the existing situation as a first step toward drawing up a program for rural development. A very good step in this directtion is the census which will commence throughout the country today with the help of 25,000 people. As for the need to pay attention to agriculture as a pivot for economic development, which aims to achieve economic independence, we will list a few figures.

According to the Commerce Ministry's report, 33 percent of the imports during the first 8 months of the past [Iranian] year consisted of foodstuffs. In 1363 [year beginning 21 March 1984], we imported 538,000 tonnes of sugar, while our domestic sugar production was 631,000 tonnes. In 1362, the country's rice imports totalled 742,000 tonnes. Also, we imported more than 2 million tonnes of wheat in 1364.

Even though domestic production of agricultural goods since the Islamic Revolution is greater and much more spectacular in most cases in comparison with the situation that existed during the Pahlavi regime—and we should thank the government and specifically the Construction Jihad and the Commerce Ministry for this—we should bear in mind the fact that in a world where foodstuffs are the most important weapon used to impose colonialism on the nations of the Third World, we undoubtedly should advance toward economic development and independence through agricultural growth. This can be accomplished by compiling more accurate programs, by having a more comprehensive view, by further mobilizing potentials, and by ensuring greater coordination in the implementation of programs.

Pakistan

Muslim League Demands Governments' Dismissal

BK2908153388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] The Pakistan Muslim League led by the former prime minister, Mr Junejo, has called for the dismissal of the caretaker governments at the center and in the three provinces. It condemned the caretaker chief ministers for failing to protect the lives of President Ziaul Haq and senior military officers who died in an air crash earlier this month.

The Junejo faction today formally merged with the Functional Muslim League led by the pir of Pagaro.

Mr Junejo expelled last evening all members of the party who had not resigned from the central and provincial governments.

Pledges To Support Geneva Accords

BK3008025088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0242 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 30 (AFP)—Two leading factions of Pakistan's Muslim League have pledged to respect "to the letter" the terms of the Geneva accord on Afghanistan if the League comes to power in November's parliamentary elections.

A faction led by former Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, who was dismissed in May by the late President Ziaul Haq, and another group led by Pir Mardan Shah Pagaro, a political and religious leader from Sind Province in the south of the country made the pledge.

They expressed the hope that a "solution to the problem of Afghanistan would be found in accordance with the accord" signed in April between the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul and the Pakistani Government.

A strict application of the accord would imply an end, or at the very least a sharp drop, in the military aid given by Pakistan to the Afghan guerrillas, according to diplomats here.

The two factions have agreed to join forces to fight the election.

The Muslim League is competing with Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in the November election. Mrs Bhutto is the daughter of former President Zulfiqar 'Ali Bhutto whom General Ziaul Haq ousted in 1977 and later ordered executed.

President Ziaul Haq, who was killed in an August 17 plane crash which investigators suspect was caused by sabotage, was a firm supporter of the Afghan guerrillas and continued to provide them with weapons even after implementation of the Geneva accord on May 15.

The accord provides for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan by February 15, 1989.

President Ziaul Haq justified his continued support for the Afghan rebels—to whom he provided U.S. weapons—by the fact that Moscow continued to arm and equip the Kabul government forces.

The question of military support for the rebels was reportedly one that divided Mr Junejo and the president, before Gen Ziaul Haq sacked his prime minister on charges of "incompetence".

The 56-year-old Mr Junejo had previously served as Pakistan's prime minister for three years.

Mrs Bhutto and her party, which is currently favorite to win the election, have not yet publicly taken a stand on the Afghan question.

The PPP however has a reputation for anti-Americanism which could take the form of opposing U.S. military aid to the rebels, observers said.

Meanwhile, the premier of the North-West Frontier Province, retired General Fazle Haq, told a delegation of seven Afghan guerrilla leaders on Monday that the Pakistani Government would not change its policy towards Afghanistan, the official APP news agency reported.

NWFP Head Says 'No Change' in Afghan Policy

BK2908161988 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] The NWFP caretaker chief minister, Lieutenant General, Retired, Fazle Haq, has said there will be no change in the government policy on Afghanistan. This policy, he said, would continue till the creation of peaceful conditions for the safe and honorable return of Afghan refugees to their homeland. He was talking to a seven-member delegation of Afghan refugee leaders in Peshawar today.

President Appoints Supreme Court Justices

BK2908155988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] The president has appointed the chief justice of Sind high court, Mr Justice Naeemuddin, and the acting justices of the Supreme Court, Mr Justice Ali Hussain Qazalbash and Mr Justice S. Osman Ali Shah, as permanent justices of the Supreme Court. The president has also appointed the acting chief justices of Lahore, Peshawar, and Baluchistan high courts, Mr Justice Abdus Shakur Salam, Mr Justice S. Faqre Alam, and Mr Justice Abdul Kadil Chaudhury, as the chief justices of the respective high courts. The senior judge of the Sind high court, Mr Justice Ajmul Mian, has been appointed as the permanent chief justice of the Sind high court.

These appointments reflect the government's determination to end interim arrangements in the country's high judicial institutions and to pave the way for complete judicial freedom.

'Special Cell' To Review Martial Law Sentences

BK2708160988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] A special cell has been created in the president's secretariat which will speed up the review work of sentences awarded by military courts in certain deserving cases, in light of the government's policy decision.

It may be recalled that applications were requested from the people last February in connection with the decision to remit sentences pronounced during the period of martial law. The cell is reviewing these applications according to the formula published in the gazette notification of 9 March.

Yaqub Khan To Attend Nicosia Nonaligned Meeting

BK2908143988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahbazada Yaqub Khan will leave Islamabad next Monday [5 September] for Nicosia where he will lead the Pakistan delegation to the nonaligned foreign ministers conference which begins there on 7 September. Radio Pakistan's diplomatic correspondent understands that the 4-day conference will discuss disarmament and regional issues, including Afghanistan, the Middle East, Cambodia, and Latin America. The conference will also decide on the venue of the next nonaligned summit.

During his stay in Nicosia, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will meet his counterparts from various countries and [UN mediator on Afghanistan] Mr Diego Cordovez and discuss matters of mutual interest with them.

Bomb Kills 3 on Peshawar-Bound Train

BK3008082288 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] There was a bomb blast in the Peshawar-bound Khyber Mail near the Attock Railway Station early this morning. Three persons were killed and 13 injured in the blast. The injured were admitted to the hospital in Attock.